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OCTOBER, 2014

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 10

Edition 132

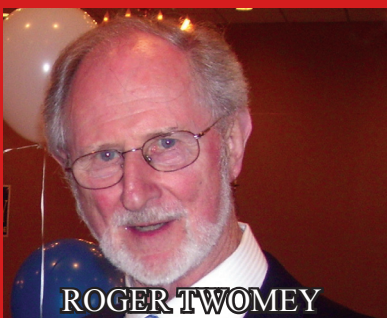
2014 ELECTION EDITION

Lantigua Comeback?

LANTIGUA STAGES COMEBACK IN STATE REP. RACE



MARCOS DEVERS



ROGER TWOMEY



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AMERICAN LEGION REMINDS YOU TO VOTE!

John Lenotte

VALLEY PATRIOT VETERAN COLUMNIST

The last two months I have been mentioning the general elections which will be held on Tuesday, November 4th. We will be voting for the top state officials including Governor, Lt. Governor, Treasurer, Auditor and Attorney General. We will also be voting for US Senator: Senator Markey is up for re-election. And we will be voting for members of the US House of Representatives. This is an important election. The turnout for the primary election was about fifteen per cent. What a shame. There are many more that complain about how things are being run. And a lot who are happy. Where were you when it was time to vote? By not voting, you are letting others decide for you as to who will be our elected representatives.

Our elected officials need to be sent a message. If you support them, they

need your vote. If you do not support them, then you should vote for their opponent. The place to voice your pleasure or displeasure is in the voting booth. Voting is one of our fundamental rights and obligations as citizens of this great country. I hope you will join me in exercising this right on November 4th.

The candidates are all well meaning, community service minded individuals. They are giving up their time and monies to run for office. Policy ideas will be different. As voters we need to support them.

The media ads have begun. Personally, I will be watching the debates and looking at online sites to dig down beyond the ads. A website I often use is www.votesmart.org. Become an informed



voter, make your voice heard. The only way we can really affect decisions is to contact our legislators and as noted before – to VOTE. Let us show our elected officials that we do care enough to vote!

The American Legion remains watchful in terms of changes in the Veterans Administration (VA). Our National Commander, Mike Helm, has shared with President Obama a measure of disappointment. Given all that has come up about the VA, no one has been terminated. In the business world, such incompetence would result in those at fault being fired, yet many in the VA remain in their jobs. There have been many improvements, but there is still a way to go.

On another familiar topic, this is not

the time to cut the Department of Defense budget. Our military will need to replenish its supply of weapons and to keep up the maintenance of its equipment. Failure is not an option. Just look at the news on any given day. It is a scary world. The last thing any of us wants is another attack on US soil. A strong defense will prevent that. And of course, the intelligence agencies and Homeland Security will need funds. But some of it can be working smarter not harder. Just look at the recent fire that caused havoc at the two Chicago airports. And there was no backup system? We are vulnerable and need to put funding into our defense which includes a strong infrastructure. If not, we keep ourselves open to crippling attacks to our way of life.

Stand up. Be heard. VOTE.

May God Bless our troops, their families and this great country.

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The Gas Tax Lie, Vote Yes on Question #1

Question #1 on the November ballot asks voters to overturn the legislature’s cowardly move to perpetually raise the gas tax without their ever having to take another vote or be held accountable to the taxpayers.

A YES vote on Question #1 would repeal the legislature’s action and stop the automatic gas tax hikes.

A NO vote would allow the legislature’s actions to stand and, according to Beacon Hill, politicians would “index” the gas tax to inflation.

But that is a lie.

It’s not spin, it’s not rhetoric, it’s an outright lie.

Saying that the gas tax will be indexed to inflation misleads voters to think that when inflation goes up the gas tax will go up, and when inflation goes down the gas tax will also go down.

Nothing could be further from the truth. What Democrats on Beacon Hill are doing once again is manipulating the voters with tricky language. The truth is that while your gas taxes will increase when inflation goes up, what they are not telling you is that the gas tax will not go down as inflation goes down.

That means the gas tax is NOT indexed to inflation. It will be in a perpetual mode of increase every year.

We believe first of all, that the voters should vote yes on Question #1 and roll back the automatic gas tax increase. If the legislature wants to keep raising taxes let them take a vote each year so that the voters can hold them accountable at election time. What we want is the media and the Democrat Party to start telling the truth.

Their deceptive claims that the gas tax is “indexed to inflation” should not go uncorrected and should certainly not go unpunished.

Secondly, the other lie being told about the gas tax and Question #1 is that the money the state raises in gas taxes will be earmarked to fix roads and bridges that are in serious disrepair.

We have heard that lie before too.

Remember a few years ago when the Massachusetts legislature said that raising the cigarette tax would help fund health care for those with lung problems as the result of years of smoking.

But, within a year the Democrat run legislature took all that cigarette tax revenue and put it into the state’s general fund so they could waste it on more social programs to buy votes at election time.

We wonder when the taxpayers and voters of Massachusetts will finally say enough is enough?

The recent spate of audits conducted by State Auditor Suzanne Bump (a Democrat) shows that every facet of state government has millions if not billions in waste fraud and abuse with no accountability. She exposed the fact that the state’s Welfare cash card program (called EBT) had millions of dollars walk out the door with no documentation as to who received those benefits. She exposed the fact that the Social Security, the foster care program, the MBTA and other state agencies were responsible for millions of our tax dollars walking out the door with no way to account for who received the money.

Given all of this we find it irresponsible to give the dishonest mob on Beacon Hill another penny in taxes until they can learn to more spend more responsibly and put systems in place to stop the rampant corruption, waste, fraud, and abuse.

Voting YES on Question 1 will not solve all these problems but it will send a very strong message to the liars on Beacon Hill that they cannot fool the voters about these issues.

Vote YES on Question 1.

A Special Kind of Incompetence

Jeff Katz

VOTED AP's BEST RADIO TALK SHOW HOST
VALLEY PATRIOT EDITOR'S CHOICE AWARD

On the heels of the most major security breach to ever take place at The White House we see the first ever case of Ebola in the United States of America. Is there a connection? You bet your rear end there is!

Regardless of your personal political inclinations you must acknowledge that for the past six years we have seen the minor leaguers in control of the executive branch of the Federal government and the results are becoming increasingly more dangerous.

We all chuckled when a pampered egomaniac proclaimed that his election would

keep the seas from rising. That should be, at best, a bad punch line to a lame Saturday Night Live skit but of course it was stated as a matter of fact by someone who always believes that he is the smartest guy in the room. This arrogance has not been limited to simply spewing the tired old talking points from the global cooling, I mean global warming...oh wait no that is global climate change...damn, forgot they had to change that too...now it's the global climate disruption hucksters... and it has been seen in every segment of his administration.

While the President travelled the far and wide apologizing to anyone and everyone

who would listen, the sworn enemies of the United States were still working overtime to cause damage and injury to our nation. While our American leadership is focused on banning the name “Redskins” from the NFL there exist real dangers threatening the American people.

There a two hundred American troops being deployed to Iraq but three thousand being sent to West Africa. Military men and women are trained and equipped to combat enemies like the jihadi terrorists found in Iraq but those troops are under orders to do nothing. Our infantry units are neither equipped nor trained to deal with a communicable terminal disease but thousands of them are now ordered in to the heart of Ebola country. What could possibly go wrong?

Armed and dangerous men are getting in to The White House and within a few inches of the President and the Secret Service Director explains, “Our security plan failed.” Really? Ya think? Ms. Pierson has tendered her resignation and it has been accepted, but let us be honest it takes a very special kind of incompetence to be fired from this administration.

Enterovirus is being seen in exponentially larger numbers than ever before and Ebola is now in the United States. The CDC officials state, “It is regrettable that the Ebola patient was not kept at the hospital.” Regrettable...exactly, just like screwing up someone’s lunch order. Kind of like white bread instead of wheat bread.



Jeff Katz is a former police officer, former talk show host on Talk1200AM and won the Associated Press Award for Best Talk Show in Boston two years in a row. He is now an exclusive columnist for The Valley Patriot. He is the recipient of The Valley Patriot’s 2013 Editor’s Choice Award for exceptional writing about issues that effect our lives. WEBSITE: visionaccomplished.net

President Obama has told us that the border is secure, ISIS is the junior varsity and that if you like your doctor you can keep your doctor. Now he tells us that the he and his team have a handle on the whole Ebola matter. And there ya go!

The Valley Patriot is published monthly before the tenth of each month by The Valley Patriot, Inc., 75 Main St., North Andover, MA 01845. All contents Copyright (c) 2012, Valley Patriot, Inc. All rights reserved. Subscriptions are \$50 per year and sent via U.S. Mail.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Valley Patriot, Inc., PO Box 453, North Andover, MA 01845.

Letters to the editor, columns and op/eds can be submitted to valleypatriot@aol.com. The Valley Patriot is not responsible for the opinions expressed in submitted letters or columns. It is the policy of The Valley Patriot not to edit or exclude submitted material based on content.

The Valley Patriot is not responsible for, nor do we necessarily share the opinions of columnists and contributors that are published in the paper. Columns, by definition, are opinion pieces.

The Valley Patriot is printed by Graphic Development in West Hanover, Mass.

Local daily news updates are online at facebook.com/valleypatriot

PHONE: (978) 771-4091
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President/Publisher: Tom Duggan, Jr.
Copy Editor: Christine Ryan

Corrections: Please contact the editors at valleypatriot@aol.com

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I ask you for your vote on Tuesday, 4 November !



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What Are They Putting in Haverhill’s Water?

Dr. Charles Ormsby
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

In our September issue, Michael Veves of Haverhill weighed in with a critique of my August article, entitled “Can You Resist the Devil’s Brew.”

I typically let such attacks pass and permit the readers of The Valley Patriot to make their own assessments of the veracity of such commentary. In this case, I will provide a brief response since Michael questioned the factual basis of my article and complained about the lack of listed sources. I will ignore Michael’s editorial commentary at the end of his critique and let the facts speak for themselves.

Michael starts out by taking issue with my statement that “the scourge of famine has never existed in any capitalist society.” His counter example is India where he states that “food is a scarce commodity for millions” and then declares, “Last time I checked, India is a capitalist economy.”

All I can say is that Michael needs to learn how to check his facts more carefully. In the latest index of economic freedom (source: Heritage Foundation & Wall Street Journal), India ranked 120th out of 178 countries.

As bad as its ranking is, India has substantially improved its economic freedom score over the last decade, but it is hardly a capitalist economy, ranking below Cambodia and Moldova. That being said, becoming “more free” (more capitalistic) does make a big difference.

Let’s see how India is doing in per capita income (on a purchasing power basis). The accompanying chart for India is provided by Trading Economics and the World Bank (Michael likes sources). It looks like more freedom leads to more prosperity ... just the point I was making in my article.

INDIA PER CAPITA INCOME ON A PURCHASING POWER BASIS

By the way, thanks to statisticians like Michael, even the U.S. is no longer largely capitalistic. We lost that distinction nearly a century ago and today rank 12th in the world in economic freedom. In fact, we are no longer even in the “free” category. We now rank 6th behind Chile, Ireland and Denmark in the “mostly free” category

and, for the last five years, our rank has consistently declined. Elections do have consequences, sometimes painful ones.

Michael then takes issue with my comment that “countries ranked ‘mostly free’ have four times the per capita income of countries ranked ‘mostly unfree.’” He backs up his argument with the statement “Many countries south of our border, marked free or mostly free, do have four times the per capita income ... all at the top tier of society, that is, the most wealthy.”

Michael, Michael, Michael ... countries are not “marked” free or unfree, they are ranked. The rankings are done annually by the Heritage Foundation and The Wall Street Journal.

Second, there are not “many countries” south of our border ranked free or mostly free ... in fact, there is just one, Columbia, and it is the lowest of those ranked “mostly free.” It ranks 34th in the world. No other Central American or South American country is listed as free or even mostly free.

Third (pay attention, Michael) the comparison being made was between freer countries and less free countries, not between groups within a country. But yes, countries south of our border do have substantial income disparities between the wealthiest few percent of their population and the bottom 25%. Welcome to the non-capitalistic third-world where state run enterprises and political pull control the economy and limit the upward mobility of the vast majority of people. Unfortunately, we are heading down the same statist Hell hole.

Next, Michael complains about my claim that “In Communist China, before the introduction of market forces, hundreds of millions of Chinese lived on less than \$1 per day.” He wanted my source for this claim. Well, per capita income in China was at or below 50 cents per day until the mid-1970’s and didn’t break through \$1 per day until around 1986 (source: Trading Economics and the World Bank).

Michael, are you happy now? But life in China is improving significantly.



Now that market forces are allowed some freedom to operate in China, its per capita GDP has grown 10-fold over the last 25 to 30 years from around \$1/day in 1986 to approximately \$10/day now. Again, FREE MARKETS DO MATTER.

Then Michael complains about my statement that “the poorest 10% of Americans live more comfortably today than the monarchs of the pre-capitalist period.” I submit the following in support of my claim: flush toilets, anesthesia (and the rest of modern medicine), automobiles, TVs, computers, refrigerators, telephones, iPhones, airplanes, and Lady Gaga. Oh well, nine out of ten is pretty good.

Finally, Michael exhibits his utter ignorance of history, economics, and the meaning of the term capitalism. I quote from his critique: “Solid arguments can be made that before the coming of Christ, the Romans, Greeks, and Egyptians thrived in a capitalist economy. Millions were enslaved under the Romans whose elite lived in luxury.”

Write this down Michael: Capitalism is a social system based on the recognition of individual rights, including property rights, in which all property is privately owned. Millions enslaved under the Romans (and Greeks and Egyptians) hardly qualifies as capitalism.

Solid arguments? Michael hardly qualifies as a connoisseur of solid arguments.

Michael should get up to speed on economic history and learn that capitalism only began to emerge around 1700 AD (yes, that is after Christ) and that it took the better part of the next 100 years for mankind to begin to understand it (starting with Adam Smith’s The Wealth of Nations in 1776). The term capitalism wasn’t even coined until the year of Jefferson’s passing in 1826.

I will leave the assessment of the remainder of Michael’s critique to The Valley Patriot’s readers, assuming they think it worthy of their time.

Can someone have the EPA check the Kool Aid level in Haverhill’s water supply?



Dr. Charles Ormsby served two terms on the North Andover School Committee, co-founded the North Andover Taxpayers Association, is a co-founder of and columnist for The Valley Patriot, broadcasts weekly opinion pieces for WCAP (980 AM) in Lowell, and is a faculty member in the Department of Mathematical Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. Dr. Ormsby is a graduate of Cornell and has a doctorate degree from MIT. You can email him at ccormsby@verizon.net

L’Italien Has Tax Liens, Falsely Claims Opponent had Liens as Well

The Massachusetts Department of Revenue has placed a tax lien on former State Representative Barbara L’Italien, who is a member of the Andover School Committee and a candidate for State Senate in Massachusetts.

According to the tax lien L’Italien refused to pay \$7,618.58 in taxes in 2011 and 2012 while she was working for the State Treasurer’s office making approximately \$105,000 a year.

She secured the job just days after losing her seat in the House of Representatives to Jim Lyons of Andover during the 2010 campaign.

For the year 2011, L’Italien still owes \$6,093.51 and for the year 2012, L’Italien owes \$1,525.07.

Despite owing the Massachusetts State Taxpayers \$7,618.58 going back to 2011, L’Italien’s campaign finance reports obtained by the Secretary of State’s Office show that Barbara L’Italien donated \$10,000 to her State Senate campaign.

The first donation of \$5,000 was on May 30, 2014, the second \$5,000 donation was made on August 15, 2014. A third loan was made in the amount of \$3,000 on August 28, 2014.

During the 2010 election for State Representative, L’Italien attacked another can-

didate when it was learned that he was behind in paying taxes, calling him a tax cheat.

L’Italien told The Eagle Tribune on October 24, 2010: “This speaks to the heart of his

credibility. Successful small businessmen don’t cheat fellow small business owners and fellow taxpayers.”

L’Italien won the Democratic Party’s nomination for State Senate on September 9th, defeating Pavel Payano and Doris Rodriguez of Lawrence. She is facing Republican Alex Vispoli who sits as a member of the Andover Board of Selectmen. Senate Candidate Barbara L’Italien issues a statement in response to The Valley Patriot’s news story that she owes more than \$7,000 in back taxes while loaning more than \$13,000 to her senate campaign.

In her statement, L’Italien blamed the issue on her opponent Alex Vispoli and the Republicans, but does not explain how she was able to afford loaning \$13,000 to her campaign for state senate, while not being able to afford \$7,618.58 for the 2011



Alex Vispoli (R)



Barbara L’Italien (D)

tax problems claiming that Alex Vispoli, her opponent in the senate race, had liens against him as well ... 22 years ago.

Documents sent to The Valley Patriot by the L’Italien campaign appears to show that Vispoli owed \$855.01 back in 1997 in municipal taxes to the Town of Andover and also appears to show that in 1992 he once owed \$2,693.33.

Asked if the campaign was trying to make light of L’Italien’s failure to pay taxes that are still owed, Ritchie replied, “If we are going to start talking about liens, I think Alex Vispoli’s municipal liens should also be in play. He had liens too.”

“Shame on Alex for resorting to gutter politics,” L’Italien’s says in her statement, “rather than talking about his plan for helping working families here in the Merrimack Valley.”

Her spokesman, Wes Ritchie, also revealed that The Valley Patriot published the story of L’Italien’s tax lien on the website www.valleypatriot.com before she herself was even notified by the Department of Revenue.

BOGUS CLAIMS VISPOLI OWED MUNICIPAL TAXES ~ WHAT THE DOCUMENTS REALLY SHOW

A careful inspection of the documents sent by the L’Italien campaign show that they are not municipal liens against Vispoli for non-payment of taxes as L’Italien and her spokesman Wes Ritchie had claimed.

The documents are actually “Municipal Lien Certificates” required by Massachusetts State Law when a house is sold or a homeowner refinances their mortgage to bring all current tax and water bills up to date before the transfer can take place.

“Those two certificates are from when I bought my house and when I refinanced,” Vispoli told The Valley Patriot early Tuesday evening.

“That’s a lien certificate which shows my taxes were paid up to date on the day the transactions took place.”

Asked if the campaign was trying to make light of L’Italien’s failure to pay taxes which are still owed, Ritchie replied, “If we are going to start talking about liens, I

Activities, Announcements North Andover Senior Center

Why should people get vaccinated against the flu?

Influenza is a serious disease that can lead to hospitalization and sometimes even death. Every flu season is different, and influenza infection can affect people differently. Even healthy people can get very sick from the flu and spread it to others. Over a period of 31 seasons between 1976 and 2007, estimates of flu-associated deaths in the United States range from a low of about 3,000 to a high of about 49,000 people. During a regular flu season, about 90 percent of deaths occur in people 65 years and older. The “seasonal flu season” in the United States can begin as early as October and last as late as May. During this time, flu viruses are circulating in the population. An annual seasonal flu vaccine (either the flu shot or the nasal-spray flu vaccine) is the best way to reduce the chances that you will get seasonal flu and lessen the chance that you will spread it to others. When more people get vaccinated against the flu, less flu can spread through that community. How do flu vaccines work? Flu vaccines (the flu shot and the nasal-spray flu vaccine (LAIV)) cause antibodies to develop in the body about two weeks after vaccination. These antibodies provide protection against infection with the viruses that are in the vaccine. The seasonal flu vaccine protects against

three influenza viruses that research indicates will be most common during the upcoming season. Three kinds of influenza viruses commonly circulate among people today: influenza B viruses, influenza A (H1N1) viruses, and influenza A (H3N2) viruses. Each year, one flu virus of each kind is used to produce seasonal influenza vaccine.

UPCOMING FLU SHOT: Wednesday, October 15th from 1:30-2pm at the North Andover Senior Center, 120R Main Street. Please be prepared –As every year, residents aged 65 and older will need to bring their Medicare Part B card or applicable current health insurance card. Quadravalent flu vaccine only.

S.H.I.N.E. Volunteers: (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) Free, confidential counseling on all aspects of health insurance to North Andover residents on Medicare; Call center for an appointment. First and third Tuesday of the month. October 21 12:00-2:30.

Volunteers are the backbone of the North Andover Senior Center; we currently need Medical Transport Volunteers. You can set your own hours. Call the Senior Center for more information. Speak with our Program Coordinator at 688-9560 for application and assistance.

LOOK WHAT’S BACK! Monthly Day Trip to Foxwoods! Comfortable, clean motor coach that leaves from St. Michael’s Church

on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. Next trip scheduled for Oct 14th. We must have 28 persons for the trip to run. Sign up with our receptionist at the North Andover Senior Center. Trip cost \$35.00, includes a food voucher and \$10 slot play.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

CONTINUING INTO THE FALL: WEDNESDAY’S “FRESH TABLE” at the North Andover Senior Center at noon. The congregate meal will not be served on Wednesdays. Instead a fresh meal will be prepared in-house. Cost \$5, reservation with reception must be made the Friday before. Limited to 24. Check with reception for menu. No refunds or take out.

LECTURE SERIES: 10/13 Holiday, Center is closed.

MONTHLY MYSTERY RIDE: Monday October 20th, “A Walk in the Woods”, Bus \$6. Lunch on your own at a local historic tavern. Bus departs 9am. Wear comfy shoes and dress accordingly!

MONTHLY SUPPER CLUB: Thursday October 16th. Sign Up first Wed. of the month, October 1. Atkinson Country Club. Bus \$6, leaves at 4:15. Separate checks-order off menu.

ONE ON ONE COMPUTER INSTRUCTION: 45 minute sessions for \$7. Tuesdays

SR. CENTER: PAGE: 29



Anne’s Andover Notebook: Memorial Hall Library

October Events at Memorial Library. Once again the Memorial Hall Library has an outstanding program of interesting activities for Andover residents. Check the Library event and activities for a complete listing of programs. Some of the highlights for October are as follows:

An evening of music with the “North Sea Gas” folk trio, the very best of Scotland, will be held on October 15, 2014 from 7-8:30pm. Register on line.

Crafts – rug hooking, quilting, knitting, jewelry making, are on the schedule for Wednesday October 22, 2014 from 6:30-8:30pm. Register online.

A very interesting speaker, Robert Hanscom, will talk about Genealogy and how he built a database of 40,000 names from family relations. October 23, 2014 7pm.

An afternoon of Jazz and Classical Music, with Eyvan Katsenenbogen, will be presented Sunday, October 26, 2014 at

2:30pm.

Monday October 27, 2014 at 6:30pm is Movie Night. The feature is “About Time”. Check it out.

Tuesday October 28, 2014 from 7-9pm there will be a discussion about a book by author Richard Rubin, The Last of the Doughboys. Leading the discussion will be local historians, Don Robb and Joan Patrikis. They will discuss Andover’s connections with the men and women and the “War to End All Wars.”

A follow up on Sunday November 2,

2014 from 2-4:30pm will be “An Afternoon with Author Richard Rubin”. Mr. Rubin’s book is about his 10 year odyssey across the United States and France, speaking with those fought in World War I, researching archives, papers and localities of the War. Both these programs are sponsored by the Andover Veterans Services and the Friends of Memorial Hall Library. A donation of food items will be welcomed and donated to local veterans.

Registration online or by calling the library to reserve space is appreciated.

FROM PAGE 5 - L’ITALIEN OWES TAXES

think Alex Vispoli’s municipal liens should also be in play. He had liens too.”

L’ITALIEN’S WRITTEN STATEMENT

In her statement, L’Italien blamed medical expenses and her family medical situation for not paying her taxes, saying that she is on a payment plan and has an appeal with the Department of Revenue for medical reasons.

“I’m disappointed that my opponent and his Republican operatives are playing political games over a dispute that has been settled between my family and the Department of Revenue, especially because of the multiple municipal tax liens that have been placed on Republican Alex Vispoli’s property in the past, and his record of raising taxes on Andover families by over 25% while a selectman. Shame on Alex for resorting to gutter politics, rather than talking about his plan for helping working families here in the Merrimack Valley.

As the mother of four, and a caregiver

for an elderly parent, I know what it is like to face tough financial circumstances. In recent years, my family faced several serious medical issues that put a great strain on our finances. My family has an active appeal with DOR based on these medical expenses, and we have also been on a payment plan while we await the full appeal. We are confident that once the appeal has concluded, we will receive our payments back from the Department of Revenue and this matter will be fully resolved.

Franky, this kind of attack shows me the kind of person Alex Vispoli is. In the last 8 years, Alex has raised property taxes 25% in Andover for families and 28% on Andover’s small businesses. All the while, Alex has concealed his past municipal tax liens from the voters of Andover. By slinging mud, Alex is trying to avoid talking about his record of raising property taxes in Andover and about his own personal municipal tax liens.



I’m running for State Senate because working families across Andover, Dracut, Tewksbury and Lawrence have been feeling financial pressure now for years, and we need a voice in the State Senate who will work every day to ease the burdens faced by families, by seniors, by

college students and by everyone across our region. We don’t need Alex Vispoli’s negative attacks – we need him to answer for his record of raising taxes on families and small businesses in Andover.”

- Barbara L’Italian

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Interview with Superintendent-Receiver, Jeff Riley, PT II

No Condoms in Lawrence Schools, Test Scores and Teen Pregnancy Under Receivership

This is part II of Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan's interview with Lawrence State Receiver for the Lawrence Public Schools who took over and replaced the school committee nearly three years ago.

DUGGAN: What are your thoughts on the teacher's union.

RILEY: There's this huge fight in the world about charter schools vs. teacher's unions. I've seen some great charter schools and I've seen some great public schools. I was the principal of a great public school because I've had great teachers that were all unionized and all deserved to have union rights. My kids go to a great public school in Boston with unionized teachers.

DUGGAN – I'm talking about this union in Lawrence.

RILEY: I think this union is fine. You know, we've obviously had our disagreements but we've tried to work with them. We have an agreement in place, we've given them their own school, we are trying to work with people, and so I think that teachers have to have some kind of representation, so that if you have a rogue principal or something that teachers have an opportunity to advocate or have some-one advocate for them.

DUGGAN: So, no effort on the part of the administration to push kids into graduation that may not be ready and no one is making an effort to weed out teachers that happen to be a little older?

RILEY: No.

DUGGAN: So, all the teachers that are being let go who are in that age bracket, is it because they were part of the previous regime and are not fitting into the programs that you are doing now?

RILEY: Anyone that was let go from the Lawrence Public Schools were let go for performance. We actually had a process in place for a receiver's review when I first came, to have not just principal input but outside input. Retired superintendent came in, so we gave people ample opportunity, but it's all about performance. It's not about age or anything like that. We have a pretty veteran faculty here in Lawrence, and when you talk about the teachers who won the Sauntag awards, most of them are deep veteran teachers.

DUGGAN: When we first sat down a year ago, I asked you when are you leaving and you didn't have an answer. Then I asked Mitchell Chester and he didn't have an answer. You have been here a little less than three years, what is the exit strategy?

RILEY: There have been discussions about what happens after receivership. I think those discussions have started because we have been able to make some

positive momentum in the district, but we also need to be very thoughtful of what this looks like after receivership. There are folks that will tell you; people who were on the Springfield Control Board, that they went in and righted the ship, when they left things went back to business as usual. We have to look at that. Like the local school committee, should it continue to be elected? I don't know. Should it be appointed? I don't know. These are the things that I think need to be flushed out. We have some operators like Community Day Charter School, which has taken over one of our schools. We think that a provision from the commissioner saying that this cannot be undone without the expressed written consent of the Commissioner of Education might be a valid way to make sure we embed the changes we've made in the school system. So, It certainly good only in its infancy to discuss, but the discussions are taking place.

DUGGAN: How much political pressure do you get to push the school system in a political direction?

RILEY: I think we've tried to negate the idea of me being a one man show; we really try to be inclusive, we hold school committee meetings, we try to keep them involved in the process. We try to hear from teachers and constituents with our literature cabinet, but I think the politics itself has been pretty much divorced from what perhaps other school districts deal with. I would say both previous administrations, with Mayor Lantigua and the current administration have been supportive and have not been intrusive into our efforts to try and fix the problems that are taking place here.

DUGGAN: So, no local political pressure, no state political pressure?

RILEY: I don't feel it.

DUGGAN: What's your relationship with Mitchell Chester (State Education Commissioner), what is he most concerned about? Is he active in guiding you or advising you about what to do with the school system?

RILEY: I meet with the commissioner regularly. I'd say he's given me broad space to do what I believe is correct. The program we put in place to try and fix the schools is very different than what you would consider a liberal democratic program and he has allowed me to do that and when I was in discussions to take this job, I made it very clear that these are the things that have to happen if we are actually going to make changes and get better results for kids. He has allowed me to do that. He has certainly been involved on a regular basis but not to the point where I

RILEY: PAGE: 39

14th Essex District State Rep. Race

Smedile vs. DiZoglio

Ralph Wilbur
VALLEY PATRIOT REPORTER

Tom Duggan
VALLEY PATRIOT REPORTER

Rosemary Smedile is running for state representative from the 14th District including parts of North Andover, Lawrence, Methuen and Bradford. Rosemary graduated from Boston College with honors. Married 33 years with three children, she is a small business owner and has served the North Andover community for 5 years on the Finance Committee and 13 years on the Board of Selectmen with several years as Chairperson on both boards.



Rosemary Smedile (R)

14th Essex District State Representative Diana DiZoglio is seeking her second term in the legislature.

She says that what she is most proud of is co-sponsoring a bill to put photo ID on EBT (welfare) cards.

"It's really important to have photo ID on EBT cards because it helps to eliminate fraud. You will never get rid of all fraud but this goes a long way."

DiZoglio lives in Methuen and considers herself a moderate, despite attacks from her primary opponents calling her too "conservative" and her final election opponent Rosemary Smedile trying to portray her as too "liberal."

"I guess that means I'm doing my job," DiZoglio said laughing. "I'm an independent person, sometimes I vote with the Republicans and sometimes I vote with the Democrats. So, I'm always going to be criticized by both sides."

DiZoglio also says she voted to roll back the sales tax to 5% "when it came up as a standalone vote." Roll call votes from the legislature's website shows DiZoglio voted for decreasing the sales tax but not the income tax. "When they presented it as a package to lower the income and sales tax, I voted no. I believe they should

DIZOGLIO: PAGE: 32



North Andover Santa Parade Looking for Participants and Bands

Tracey Zysk
NORTH ANDOVER COLUMNIST

It's that time of year again, when the community comes together with its huge holiday season parade and Santa comes to North Andover on a fire truck to spread the Christmas spirit.

Last year's parade did not disappoint, with thousands rows deep in attendance.

The 2014 North Andover Santa Parade will be on Saturday, Nov. 29. The parade will begin at the North Andover Middle School and start its march down Main Street at noon. The parade will proceed down Main Street to Elm Street, to Water Street and back onto Main Street, and it will end at the intersection of Main Street and Sutton Street.

The North Andover Festival Committee and the Police Department are asking businesses and local organizations to enter a float or participate in the parade, North Andover Police Sgt. Eric Foulds says.

Be creative and festive, as there will be a float contest. Floats participating in the parade will be judged and awarded various place ribbons. There will also be participation ribbons.

Anyone wishing to participate may contact Lt. Foulds for details at 978-683-3168 or EFoulds@napd.us

The North Andover Merchants Association, via donations from local businesses, will be sponsoring the one of the marching bands.

HEEE'S BAAACK! Lantigua Primed to Return to Power

Tom Duggan
VALLEY PATRIOT PUBLISHER

While many believe former Lawrence Mayor Willie Lantigua is now a bad memory never to return, the fact is the man who ruled Lawrence with an iron fist is now positioned as the front-runner in a three way race for his old seat in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. How is that even possible?

A LITTLE HISTORY, LANTIGUA, DEVERS AND THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Lantigua ran against and defeated his longtime friend, State Rep. Jose Santiago in 2002. Lantigua had recruited Santiago to run for the seat four years earlier and successfully ran his campaigns for Lawrence City Council.

Lantigua defeated Santiago by leaving the Democratic Party (knowing he couldn't win a primary against an incumbent) and became an Independent.

He ran calling himself "an Independent Democrat" as a way of confusing the voters and vowed he would change back to the Democratic Party when he won. Lantigua made good on that promise going back to the Democratic Party after taking office in the legislature in 2003.

In 2004 and 2006, Lantigua was challenged by (then) Lawrence City Councilor Marcos Devers, but Lantigua defeated Devers each time in a Democratic Party primary.

Marcos Devers also ran for mayor

against incumbent Mayor Mike Sullivan in 2005, but was defeated when Lantigua threw his support behind Sullivan, telling Latino voters on Spanish language radio to vote "against Devers". By the end of that campaign, Lantigua had secured a large portion of the Dominican vote for Mike Sullivan, giving him a second term and fractioning the Dominican voters in Lawrence for the first time. That division remains today.

RUNNING FOR MAYOR AS A DEMOCRAT

In 2009, Lantigua and Devers found themselves squaring off again in a 9 way race for the nomination for Lawrence Mayor. When the smoke cleared, Lantigua placed first of the nine candidates, with Lawrence City Councilor Dave Abdoo placed second. Both went on to the final but it is not a small footnote that the person who placed third in that race was Marcos Devers and he didn't place third by much.

With Lantigua and Abdoo in the final, Lantigua ran a campaign on Spanish language radio billing himself as the "Democrat" in the race calling his opponent David Abdoo "a Republican" and mounting an anti-Republican smear campaign saying "Republican Abdoo" was going to take away their welfare among other things.

Lantigua prominently displayed "DEMOCRAT" in capital letters on all his campaign signs and literature.

EDITORS NOTE: Lawrence municipal



elections are nonpartisan.

Lantigua resoundingly won the 2009 mayoral election (the legitimacy of which is still called into question today) and served 2010-2013.

THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S BEST FRIEND

As mayor, Lantigua was mostly partisan. He endorsed and campaigned hard for Martha Coakley when she ran for Attorney General and United States Senate. He supported Deval Patrick for Governor, Secretary of State William Galvin, Congresswoman Niki Tsongas, Lt. Governor Tim Murray, State Rep. David Torrisi, State Rep. and then State Senator Barry Finegold and scores of others. He also personally recruited Democrats to run for office almost all of whom won because of Lantigua's support.

Lantigua didn't just campaign for these Democrats, he gave them full use of his Essex Street campaign office, gathered his own campaign volunteers and supporters to man the phones and stuff envelopes and even supplied an army of campaign volunteers to hold signs for each of his preferred candidates.

Lantigua did break from the Democrat Party on rare occasions for personal friends, as he supported Essex County

Sheriff Frank Cousins and State Rep. Paul Adams (both Republican).

In 2013, Lantigua ran for reelection as mayor of Lawrence and was challenged in the (nonpartisan) mayoral primary by four candidates. Lawrence City Councilor Dan Rivera, James O'Donoghue, Manny Gonzalez and State Rep. Marcos Devers.

Lantigua placed first while Dan Rivera placed second, sending both candidates to the November run-off election. It is not a minor footnote to point out that the candidate who placed third in that mayoral primary was none other than Marcos Devers.

Devers quickly endorsed Dan Rivera against Lantigua, resulting in Rivera defeating Lantigua by 84 votes. Rivera himself on election night said that he could not have defeated Lantigua without the support of Marcos Devers.

Because the race was so close, Lantigua called for a recount. The day he lost that recount, he vowed to get even with Devers saying he would run against and defeat him in the next State Rep. race. He also said that once that was accomplished, Dan Rivera was next on his list.

Though Devers received most of the



MARCOS DEVERS & DAN RIVERA Make a Great TEAM!

Marcos Devers has worked hard to represent all Lawrencians at the State House. Whether you are from North Lawrence or South Lawrence, whether you are Latino or Anglo, Marcos Devers is fighting hard to make sure ALL Lawrence residents have their voices heard at The State House.

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The Never Ending Saga of the Residency Requirement and November’s Election

Kathy Runge
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Once upon a time, a city council suspended the rules and had a redo vote on the proposed residency requirement. They waited and waited until they had a meeting with the right councilors in attendance. Finally it passed. Since the mayor wouldn’t sign the measure, it had little chance of being approved by the state legislature. What to do? At the meeting of September 2, the document containing the approved charter changes was taken off the table with the intent of voting to put the residency issue on the November ballot. At least 45 days were needed to do this, so time was short. But did they have the authority to do this? Did anyone read the exact text of the measure that would be voted on? Would the residency requirement be retroactive? A lengthy discussion ensued. The council finally voted to put it on the November ballot. That’s 36 minutes of my life I’ll never get back. You have to laugh or cry, and if you’re at the meeting in person you’ll get yelled at if you laugh, believe me.

Why they would do this in the first place is beyond me. The referendum would be non-binding. The only reason would be to pressure the mayor into signing the law and sending it to the legislature if those in favor won the election, but I’m not so sure that Mayor Rivera would comply. If the referendum failed, would the city voters get a redo until it won? Not to worry, the issue was revisited for the umpteenth time at the next meeting. It’s deja-vu all over again. As it turns out, there wasn’t enough time to put this on the state ballot for November, so the city would have needed a separate ballot and two extra poll workers per precinct. People would have to go to the voting booth twice, once for the state ballot and then again with the special city ballot. There’s a recipe for disaster. In light of this and the extra cost of \$20K that would be incurred, the council voted to withdraw it from the November ballot and intends to vote to put the residency requirement on the ballot next year. The movie “Groundhog Day” keeps popping into my mind.

With state elections coming up, I contacted each of the candidates for the 2nd

Essex and Middlesex Senate seat and the 16th Essex House seat and asked them if they had anything to say to the citizens of Lawrence. I saw four of the five candidates the weekend before the writing of this column and told them I wanted to give them an opportunity to address the voters of Lawrence. That Monday I messaged all five.

Only one replied. That was Roger Twomey, a candidate for the 16th Essex House seat along with incumbent Marcos Devers and William Lantigua. Here is his statement:

The voters in the 16th Essex district should vote for me because I am an independent voice who will bring a fresh outlook to the Statehouse. I will represent the citizens of the district with honesty, integrity and competence. I have represented the City of Lawrence as a Councilor-at-Large for the last 7 years and have proven to be an honest, hardworking civil servant. People have come to know me as a man who gets thing done.

As your Representative I will fight hard to reduce your taxes, eliminate waste and fraud in our welfare system, protect your family from violent criminals and put our veterans first. I believe the citizens of Lawrence deserve a Representative who will work hard, unite our community and bring principled leadership for all the residents of the district. My opponents are demonstrably tax and spend Legislators who have voted on Beacon Hill time and time again to increase your taxes; most notably the gasoline tax which is very likely to increase year over year unchecked. In my opinion this is taxation without representation. The citizens of Lawrence deserve better; we can do better. We cannot afford William Lantigua or Marcos Devers. I can do better. I will unite us. I will protect our families and I will be an independent voice for you.

I’m not going to tell any resident of the 16th Essex district how to vote but will tell you who I’m voting for. I like what Roger Twomey said. As a believer in small government, I’m not politically in tune with Representative Devers, although I would happily invite him to

LAWRENCE: PAGE 39

Methuen Voters: Vote Republican in November!

DJ DEEB
METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

November 4th is a perfect opportunity to get back at the incumbent Democrats who voted to raise the gas tax and automatically tie it into inflation every year. The Massachusetts gas tax is already 24 cents per gallon and will increase every year with the rate of inflation. This is in addition to the current Federal tax on gasoline that is 18.4 cents per gallon (Total: 42.4 cents). Remember this the next time you fill your fuel tank at the pump! Unfortunately, our own Representatives and Senators voted to raise taxes and it is time for us to vote them out. All 160 Massachusetts State Representatives and 40 State Senators are up for re-election this year. Linda Dean Campbell and Katie Ives may be nice people, but it is time to give them the boot!

Rep. Linda Dean Campbell (D-MA) is certainly a very nice person, but she has been on the wrong side of too many issues. These past two years she voted to increase the minimum wage to \$11 an hour at a time when the economic recovery has been slow and small businesses have been hurt by the Massachusetts version of the Affordable Health Care Act (Romney-care). In addition, she voted to increase the gas tax and tie it to inflation each year. Prior to this, Rep. Campbell voted to increase the Massachusetts sales tax from 5% to 6.25% further driving Massachusetts consumers to New Hampshire to do their shopping. Rep. Campbell has not been a friend to lawful gun owners either as she has voted for numerous meaningless gun control measures, which has earned her a dismal 17% rating from the National Rifle Association. If these were not bad enough she also voted to grant Parole for Certain Juveniles Convicted of First-Degree Murder. Finally, her record in supporting big government spending is atrocious, earning Ms. Campbell a dismal 14% rating from the Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance. It is time for change! Let’s elect Al DiNuccio (R-Methuen) for State Representative. As a small business owner, Al DiNuccio will work to create a more business-friendly environment in Massachusetts, which will translate into more jobs. Al DiNuccio will vote to reduce state government spending and taxes while protecting the rights of lawful gun owners.

Sen. Katie Ives (D-Newburyport) has also been the wrong side of most issues. Like Rep. Campbell, Sen. Ives has supported higher taxes on gasoline and voted to increase the minimum wage from \$8.00 to \$11.00 an hour. Sen. Ives also opposed a bill to expand charter schools. Like Rep. Campbell, Sen. Ives also voted to grant Parole for Certain Juveniles Convicted of First-Degree Murder. Sen. Ives is being challenged by Haverhill School Committee member Shaun Toohey. Shaun Toohey will work to reduce state government spending, cut taxes, and strengthen small businesses in Massachusetts. On his website, Shaun Toohey writes, “I believe that taxation in our state is hurting our economy and ability to create job opportunities with good pay. I also believe that our government is inefficient in spending our tax dollars and the quality of services to citizens continues to decline while taxes and fees continue to climb.” He adds, “I will work with all legislators from any party affiliation to re-organize our priorities



ties and to streamline our tax structures so that by reducing in areas possible, we promote job growth and business opportunities especially for small business owners.” Need we say more?

In June, I co-sponsored a motion to reject Common Core PARCC testing and to continue administering MCAS for all Methuen School students through 2015. The Methuen School Committee unanimously approved this motion, which was supported by Superintendent Judy Scannell. We believe that the MCAS test has raised the standards for all students in our schools and that additional testing at this time would impose an unnecessary burden on our students. It is my hope that the State will not adopt the new PARCC testing and withdraw from Common Core. A lively debate has emerged nationally regarding Common Core and many parents, teachers, and residents have correctly recognized that it amounts to a lowering of standards for Massachusetts students. Currently, Massachusetts students rank #1 in the nation and #7 in the world. This has been made possible by MCAS, which despite its flaws is a more higher-stakes test than PARCC. Republican gubernatorial candidate Charlie Baker has rightfully called for Massachusetts to abandon Common Core as has former Governor Bill Weld and former Democratic Senate Majority Leader Tom Birmingham. I will be supporting Charlie Baker for Governor in November and I hope Methuen residents will join me. Charlie Baker will also work to reduce state government spending, cut taxes, and create jobs in the Commonwealth. To date, it should be noted that Rep. Campbell and Sen. Ives have supported Common Core, which is another reason to give them the boot.

It is time to put an end to bloated state government budgets, higher taxes, and a lowering of educational standards in Massachusetts. Please join me in voting for Al DiNuccio for State Representative, Shaun Toohey for State Senator, and Charlie Baker for Governor on Tuesday, November 4th.

D.J. Deeb M.A., M.S., M.Ed. is a Methuen resident and member of the Methuen School Committee. Deeb is an Adjunct Professor of History/Government at Bunker Hill Community College and an Adjunct Political Science Instructor at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. He teaches Social Studies full-time at Reading Memorial High School. He is the author of *Israel, Palestine, and the Quest for Middle East Peace* (University Press, 2013) and *The Collapse of Middle East Peace* (IUniverse, 2003).



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Lawrence City Clerk William W. Maloney Swears Attorney Richard Rodriguez as Commissioner to the Lawrence Commission on Disabilities

September 24, 2014, Lawrence, MA: The Puerto Rican Political Action Coalition, Inc. (PR-PAC) is pleased to announce Lawrence City Clerk William W. Maloney swears in Attorney Richard Rodriguez as Commissioner to the Lawrence Commission on Disabilities. This Commission consists of nine members responsible for working with local groups to coordinate and carry out programs designed to address issues concerning persons with disabilities. Appointed as a “handicapped person”, Attorney Rodriguez said, “As a youngster I was placed in special education classes due a number of disabilities, including suffering from hearing and speech impediments. As such, I understand Lawrence and the needs of its disability community.”



FOREST LAKE COMMISSION

Methuen Mayor Stephen N. Zanni will be selecting members of The Forest Lake Commission.

The Commission will consist of five members who will serve three-year terms. Members will be appointed by Mayor Zanni, subject to the approval of the Methuen City Council.

“Forest Lake is one of Methuen’s true natural treasures where citizens can enjoy swimming, fishing, and sunbathing,” says Mayor Zanni. “We are looking for interested residents who want to contribute to making improvements at the lake and enhancing its role in our community.”

Forest Lake is open from June through late August each year. The commission

will, subject to review and authority of Mayor Zanni and the Director of Public Works, have jurisdiction over the Forest Lake beach and forest. Specifically, the commission will hold public hearings and workshops while working with Methuen citizens to maximize the recreational advantages of the area. The commission will also create an annual plan for the beach and forest.

Mayor Zanni hopes that more residents will want to get involved. Anyone interested in helping with the Forest Lake Commission should visit www.cityof-methuen.net or the Mayor’s Office, 41 Pleasant Street, Room 306.

Is the 2014 Gubernatorial Contest a Bellwether for 2016?

David “D.J.” Beauregard
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

At first glance, most political observers would neglect to see any similarities between this year’s race for Governor of Massachusetts and the upcoming Presidential campaign in 2016. When one digs a little deeper into the details, it becomes clear that the race unfolding in our backyard is going to be an important 2016 bellwether. Before examining this year’s Bay State gubernatorial contest, let’s look back at the election that occurred in 2010 and its implications for the 2012 presidential election. Four years ago, Charlie Baker was challenging Gov. Deval Patrick for re-election. He made the case that, as a successful executive with a great deal of experience turning things around, he had what it takes to beat Patrick and put Massachusetts back on the right track. Patrick, on the other hand, faced some pretty significant challenges during his first term. While he was always favored to win the race, there were moments when observers had their doubts. Patrick’s campaign was able to turn out voters in Democratic bastions like Lynn, Fall River, Lawrence, Boston, and New Bedford to score a decent six-point victory over Baker. In the presidential election two years later, the dynamics of the campaign were strikingly similar. Mitt Romney ran as the successful executive with a great deal of experience turning things around while President Barack Obama ran for re-election as the popular incumbent who struggled throughout his first term. The president’s team was able to turn out their base in key states like Ohio, Virginia, Florida, and Colorado to win re-election with over 300 electoral votes. Obama’s campaign certainly worried about their candidate’s chances at times, but the president was always generally the favorite in 2012. As it turned out, the race for Governor of Massachusetts in 2010 served as an accurate bellwether for the presidential contest in 2012.

This year, history seems to be repeating itself. However, the characters are slightly different. Martha Coakley, the Democratic candidate for governor, has a great deal of political baggage from her

failed United States Senate bid in 2010 and controversial decisions that have been made during her tenure as Attorney General. Coakley launched her campaign months ago and enjoyed a large advantage over her Democratic rivals in nearly every poll leading up to the September primary. She faced a Democratic Party heavy-weight in State Treasurer Steve Grossman and a strong challenge from the progressive wing of the party in Donald Berwick. Although she led in every poll by huge margins, she won the gubernatorial nomination by a weak six-point margin over Grossman. Charlie Baker, on the other hand, is once again running as the accomplished executive who is ready and able to fix the messes made by Gov. Patrick and the Democratic establishment on Beacon Hill. Coakley is running to be the Commonwealth’s first female governor and is attempting to make it clear that her election would not simply be a third Patrick term. The similarities between Martha Coakley and Hillary Clinton could not be more striking. Clinton, the likely Democratic candidate, is sure to face a similar challenge in the Democratic primary. She also has her own fair share of political baggage. Although Clinton currently maintains large leads over Democratic establishment figures like Vice President Joe Biden and influential progressives like Elizabeth Warren, will she be able to defeat her Democratic opponents and the Republican Party’s nominee in 2016, or will she follow in Martha Coakley’s steps and underwhelm the pollsters and pundits once people actually vote? It certainly remains to be seen.

Baker has been able to take the lead in his race against Coakley in recent polls and he has demonstrated that he has a strategy to decrease the ever-widening gender gap. If Baker is able to defeat Coakley in November, any Republican presidential candidate in the next election would be wise to look at yet another Massachusetts bellwether as he (or she) plots a winning strategy against Hillary Clinton.

David “D.J.” Beauregard operates his own political blog, *TheBeauregardReport.com*. He can be reached via e-mail at *TheBeauregardReport@gmail.com*.

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Thoughts from Councilor #5

Patience being rewarded in West District

Daniel Grayton
METHUEN CITY COUNCILOR

It has been said that patience is a virtue. If so, the residents of the west district have experienced many opportunities to build their character. Thankfully, their patience is being rewarded as numerous projects long in the making are finally becoming a reality this year. Ground was broken on the Methuen rotary project this past summer, there are plans to begin the boat ramp at the old Bea’s Restaurant site this October, and a commission will soon be appointed by the Mayor to oversee the revitalization of Forest Lake. Each project has been long in the making and would not be possible without the relentless advocacy and patience of the residents of these areas.

The Methuen rotary project is by now familiar to almost all. With a crash rate 7 ½ times the state average, it has long held the dubious distinction as one of the most dangerous intersections in the region. To remedy this, construction is now underway to replace the rotary with a partial clover leaf design, completely eliminating the roundabout. This project has been on the state’s radar for years and dozens of community meetings with MassDOT and city officials throughout that time helped keep the pressure on to get the project off the ground. The affects of the project stretch beyond reducing an unacceptable crash rate as its completion will benefit the businesses along the Rte. 110 corridor as well. However, a long road does lie ahead (no pun intended). Only still in the beginning phase, traffic on I-93 has already greatly increased- an unfortunate preview of what the next four years undoubtedly hold. In the long run, however, the improvements with benefit all who live and work on and around 113 & 110.

The second project getting underway is the park/boat ramp at the former location of Bea’s Restaurant on Riverside Drive. This project has been so long in the making it almost felt like a part of the neighborhood lore. To the joy of many, earlier this year the Mayor announced that the state had adopted and would fund the project, which is now being called “The Riverside Area Conservation Project”. The project will include both a boat ramp and a launching area for kayaks and canoes. Slated to be completed by spring of 2015, this project will open up a section of the Merrimack River previously inaccessible to the public from Methuen banks. After



a lengthy wait, the timing of the project is quite ideal. Less than ideal would have been a situation where drivers transporting canoes and kayaks passed through one of the most accident prone intersections in the entire state. Now, while the two projects do not perfectly coincide, once finished, the former will certainly compliment the latter.

The third project most recently announced is the revitalization of Forest Lake. Truly one of Methuen’s most under appreciated assets, the “residents only” beach and picnic area has been slowly deteriorating over the years. As someone who grew up spending many summer days fishing and swimming at the lake, I was pleased to hear there is a desire among others to enhance the Forest Lake experience. Underutilized for many years, the opportunity to turn Forest Lake back into a Methuen summer destination could be within reach. The biggest question moving forward is likely whether or not the city is able to secure any grant money from the state. Available funds will dictate the speed at which this project progresses and it would be favorable for the tax payers if, like the former two projects, this undertaking was state funded and did not directly cost them money.

These projects represent more than just the beautification of a specific area of town, but represent efforts to improve the quality of life of those that live and visit these areas. Safer, quicker travel and new and more appealing destinations are all realistic accomplishments. Many years in the making, these projects should be celebrated as should the residents who fought and continue to fight for them and for their community. If it is true that patience is a virtue, the folks in the west district are certainly a virtuous bunch.

Daniel Grayton is currently serving as a Councilor at-Large in the City of Methuen. He can be reached at Daniel.Grayton@gmail.com

SJC Sex offender Ruling Another Affront to the Public

Joe D’Amore
GROVELAND SELECTMAN

The state’s highest judicial entity; the Supreme Judicial Court reached another stunning milestone in delivering an affront to the sensibilities and protections of law-abiding citizens on June 4th. In a 6-1 decision, the justices ruled that lifetime parole for sex-offenders is unconstitutional. The court asserted that only the judicial branch of government has the constitutional power to sentence people. Therefore, the ruling ended the Parole Board’s role in community parole supervision for life of sex offenders. The Justices wrote that since the Parole Board has been controlling supervision of sex offenders “...(this) constitutes an impermissible delegation by the executive branch of the core judicial function of imposing sentences, and therefore violates the mandate of {Article} 30 of the Massachusetts Declaration of Rights”.

With stunning speed and in a matter of a few days, hundreds of sex offenders have been released, and this has caught many law enforcement agencies and District Attorneys off guard.

It remains unclear how supervision, oversight of sex offenders and protecting the general public will align with this ruling. It certainly doesn’t portend well. And this is certainly reminiscent of the SJC ruling of last Christmas Eve, which declared that it is unconstitutional for criminals who commit the most heinous, murderous crimes as juveniles should be eligible for parole.

It is interesting to note further that Article 30 also indicates that no branch of government can exercise the authority or function of another branch. Amazingly though, for years the Judicial Branch had effectively “delegated” its sentencing function to the Parole Board and now suddenly, this has been withdrawn.

So my question is how will the Judicial Branch supervise sex offenders in this state? Since they cannot delegate it and since they’ve neutralized the Parole Board from its supervisory function, we have now entered a dangerous phase where only after a crime is committed can law enforcement and Parole Board intervene to protect the public.

I will scan for headlines in coming months to see how this all plays out.



On Thursday, October 2, Mayor Stephen N. Zanni held a groundbreaking for the Riverside Conservation Area Project at the former site of Bea's Sandwich Shop. MacKay Construction of Wilmington, MA received the bid for the project and will begin work the week of October 6. The city anticipates that the project will be completed by the spring of 2015 and open to the public for the 2015 boating season.

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TOM DUGGAN'S ELECTION NOTEBOOK

SALISBURY UPDATE
Salisbury property owners may not know that the EPA, MassDEP and USDA gave \$18 million to Salisbury to rectify the Town's sewer system because of the Clean Water Act. They also gave the Town a special step 3 grant condition including the requirement to use actual water consumption to determine sewer user fees. So, why would the Town of Salisbury incur the costs of hiring an "international consultant" (Woodcock & Associates, Inc.) when the town knew it had a contract with U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to use actual water consumption to determine sewer user fees?

Residents of Salisbury spoke last month against the Town's intentional continued violation of the \$18 Million sewer grant conditions. Salisbury agreed to charge sewer users based on their "actual water use" as a condition to receiving 1985 U.S. EPA C250454-02-Step 3 construction grant. But, Salisbury merely gave U.S. EPA and the state the "illusion" of complying with their agreement. Obviously, the Town deceived the EPA and the State.

Town Manager Neil Harrington says that there is no EPA audit to back up allegations that the Town was required to bill for sewer based on actual water use. According to the EPA, the audit was only for construction costs NOT for sewer user fees.

Salisbury implemented Sewer Use Rules and Regulations and in 1990 and 1992 the Town voted to use the "actual water method" to determine sewer user fees. Manager Neil Harrington disagreed. I wonder if the consultant was aware that Harrington's proposal to use the EQR flat rate violates the EPA grant condition?

Why did Salisbury take money out of the Sewer Enterprise Fund (\$460,000) from sewer users money which the town called "free cash" in May 2014, and yet now the town needs more money to fix things?

Why would the consultant (Chris Woodcock) recommend the EQR flat rate, when 93% of the state uses actual water consumption to determine sewer user fees? According to Salisbury Beach Citizens for Change (SBCFC) President Tom Saab, Salisbury is one of the few towns using the flat rate. "Most of the other communities in the remaining 7% do not have water meters," Saab says.

Salisbury homeowner, Atty. Paul Magliocchetti, counsel for SBCFC urged the town to use the actual water consumption for sewer user fees as the charges would be fair and proportionate.

You cannot help but to wonder if Salisbury will continue to blatantly violate their grant agreement with EPA? Was the costly international consultant Harrington hired to study actual water consumption vs. EQR/flat rate method aware of the EPA grant conditions? And how much exactly is Town Manager Neil Harrington spending on an "international consultant" out of the Sewer Enterprise Fund? Oh, so many questions!

Looks like the Tomaselli sisters may have been right about this guy Harrington all along. MORE NEXT MONTH as we are still waiting for Neil Harrington to make good on his promise last June to turn over public documents ... and we are still waiting.

TORRISI APPOINTED TO SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Failed State Representative David Torrissi has been voted on to the North Andover School Committee by a joint committee of the School Committee and the Board of Selectmen.



Allan Hope and Manny Matias on South Broadway at a home that was recently renovated by Hope Properties.

Torrissi is filling the vacant position left by Laurie Burzlaff, who resigned to take a position in the Town Manager's office.

Torrissi will serve until Burzlaff's term expires in March.

MIKE MORALES FOR REGISTER OF PROBATE



CHARLIE BAKER

Mike Morales is running for Register of Probate. The position is one of the least publicized and more ignored races on the ballot. Register of Probate runs the Family Court. Despite the fact that Morales is running against a 16-year incumbent, we at The Valley Patriot have never even heard of, or from, the current Register of Probate. Morales on the other hand, has been campaigning hard in Lawrence, Andover and the rest of the Merrimack Valley. I'd love to give you a side-by-side comparison of these two candidates, but quite frankly, that would be impossible since the current Register has never once contacted us for any reason, sent us a press release, or even acknowledged that we exist. If you are a voter who likes no show politicians who hide from the media and refuse to be accountable to the public, then the incumbent (whomever they are) is your candidate. If you prefer a proactive Register of Probate who will answer to the public and champion transparency, then Mike Morales is your guy. As a side note: I will be voting for Mike Morales.

FRANK MORAN ENDORSES MARCOS DEVERS - Last month State Rep. Frank Moran finally left the dark side of

Former Mayor Willie Lantigua and announced his support of State Rep. Marcos Devers for reelection during a Democratic breakfast held at the Firefighter's Relief In. Also endorsing Devers that morning were Governor's Councilor Eileen Duff, Barbara L'Italien, Senator Barry Finegold, The AFLCIO, and SEIU Union.

GOVERNOR - Republican Charlie Baker is facing off in the November election against Attorney General Martha Coakley. Baker is a moderate Republican while Coakley is an ultra, left-wing liberal. Baker

is fiscally conservative but socially liberal. He supports abortion and gay marriage as does Coakley, but the one issue that is the most glaring difference between the two candidates is where they stand on municipal corruption in cities like Lawrence. As Attorney General, Martha Coakley enjoyed the support of former Lawrence Mayor Willie Lantigua. She gave Lantigua a free pass and never prosecuted him or anyone in his administration despite published reports of election fraud, refusal to file campaign finances as required by law, and even went so far as to pretend she was going to prosecute him when the feds convened a federal grand jury to investigate Lantigua's corruption as mayor. But it was just a publicity stunt. Baker, on the other hand, has had harsh words for Lantigua and corrupt municipal officials. In the last governor's race, Baker swore he would put Lawrence into receiver-

ship under Lantigua's watch, and promised to "clean up the mess" in Lawrence's city finances.

If you are a partisan Democrat who likes high taxes and increasing state government spending and regulations, then Martha Coakley is your candidate. If you prefer a moderate who is interested in rooting out municipal corruption, then Baker is your candidate.

NH SENATE RACE - SHAHEEN vs. SCOTT BROWN

After losing his re-election to the United States Senate two years ago in Massachusetts, Scott Brown has moved to NH and is running against President Obama's #1 supporter in the Senate, Jean Shaheen. Shaheen has voted with President Obama 100% of the time and is most known for selling Obamacare to voters, promising that if you like your doctor you can keep your doctor and if you like your health care plan you can keep your health care plan. We now know that is not true and was never true. Brown is strong on border security while Shaheen wants to give amnesty to illegal aliens. Brown is fiscally conservative but is a moderate on social issues. Nationwide, this is the race to watch. If Brown defeats Shaheen, he could be the deciding vote giving Republicans a majority in the Senate and would change the tone of Washington from a rubber stamp Senate, to one that forces accountability. This will be a very close race. NH voters have to decide if they want to be a liberal state that rubber stamps everything President Obama wants, or a moderate state that calls for accountability in Washington. If you are a supporter of everything President Obama does you should be voting for Jean Shaheen. If you are looking for more accountability from the White House, Scott Brown is your candidate.



RICHARD TISEI

CONGRESS - WAFFORD VS. TSONGAS

In the race for the 3rd Congressional District, incumbent Niki Tsongas is being challenged by Ann Wofford of Haverhill. Tsongas is a Democrat. Wofford is a Republican. Not much has been covered in this race by the media, as incumbent Niki Tsongas is seen by the media as a clear front runner and we all know that Democrat front runners are favored by the biased news media. Wofford, however, has taken on Tsongas' promise that if you like your health care plan you can keep your health care plan, which we now know was never true. Wofford is a strong advocate for Israel, while Tsongas calls Jewish Neighborhoods "settlements" and has stated on WCAP radio that the Israeli's must stop building in the West Bank.

CONGRESS TISEI vs. MOULTEN

While former State Senator Richard Tisei would probably have preferred to be facing off against Congressman John Tierney in the final, Tierney was defeated by left wing extremist Seth Moulten. A recent poll shows that Tisei and Moulten are neck and neck in the congressional race. On issues, these two candidates couldn't be further apart. Moulten wants to have open borders, give licenses to illegals, free government services for illegals, in state tuition for illegal aliens, drivers licenses for illegals and a "pathway to citizenship". Tisei on the other hand, does not support letting illegal aliens become citizens. Tisei is a strong advocate for Israel while Seth Moulten refuses to answer questions on the Israeli conflict. Tisei and Moulten also disagree on taxes. Moulten favors raising taxes and has never met a tax he didn't like, while


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Tisei is a conservative and favors tax breaks to stimulate the economy. If you are a left wing pro tax and spend, pro-illegal alien voter, then Seth Moulten is your candidate. If you prefer a congressman who favors tax breaks and not spending tax money on illegals, Richard Tisei is your candidate.

IVES v TOOHEY

This race will be closer than people think. Nobody knows where Shaun Toohey stands on most issues. His campaign has largely been about putting up massive signs and attending Republican and Tea Party events, but being the son-in-law of Haverhill City Councilor Bill Ryan and being a Republican in an anti-Democrat election climate gives Toohey an even change to defeat one term Senator Kathleen O'Connor Ives.

State Senator Kathleen O'Connor Ives is a Democrat who is an environmental attorney, has advocated for heavy penalties for officials who violate the state's public records law (MGL Ch. 66) and has an 86% rating with Mass Fiscal Alliance, the conservative anti-tax group in Boston. Ives supported raising the minimum wage but also voted against the gas tax, the medical device tax and has broken with the Democratic Party leadership on many tax-raising issues. If you are a moderate or independent, your candidate is Kathleen Ives. If you are a conservative, Tea Party Republican who is looking to grow the number of Republicans in the legislature, then Toohey is your candidate.

This one could be the race to watch election night.

STATE REP. (METHUEN, HAVERHILL) CAMPBELL vs. DINUCCIO

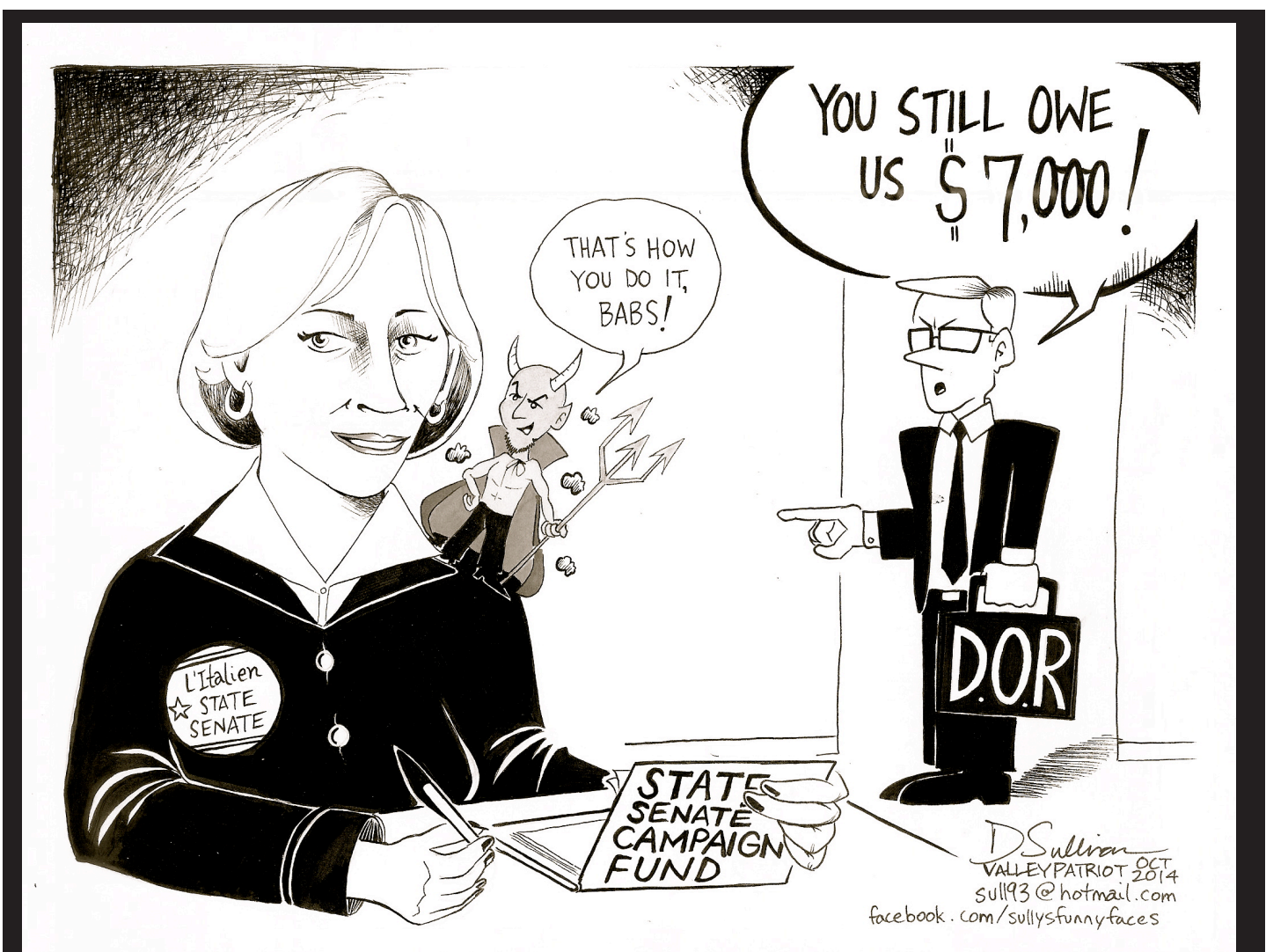
State Rep. Linda Dean Campbell was challenged once before by our Tea Party friend, Al DiNuccio, who was soundly defeated two years ago. But since then, DiNuccio has challenged Methuen Mayor Steve Zanni, losing by only 28 votes.

DiNuccio is a conservative business owner who opposes taxes, is socially conservative and has attacked Linda Dean Campbell for what he says was her co-sponsoring of the transgender bathroom bill, while Campbell denies that DiNuccio refuses to debate Campbell and face her one-on-one on the issue.

DiNuccio has almost no money to campaign and says his campaign is a "grass-roots" campaign that he is "taking to the voters directly".

For her part, Campbell is a very popular and well-funded legislator who has brought in millions of dollars for Methuen and Haverhill. She is obviously the frontrunner in this race. With the anti-incumbent mood in Massachusetts this year, DiNuccio has a chance of beating Campbell, but without the

NOTEBOOK: PAGE 36



STATE SENATE CANDIDATE BARBARA L'ITALIEN STILL OWES MORE THAN \$7K IN TAXES TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE DESPITE THE FACT THAT SHE LENT HER SENATE CAMPAIGN \$13,000. SEE STORY PAGE 5.

Merrimack Street Business Owners Give Mayor an Earful Over Street Changes, Parking

Business owners and residents on Merrimack Street in Lawrence across from Sal's Riverwalk gave Lawrence Mayor Dan Rivera and state officials an earful today as the Mayor proposed changes to the street.

The meeting was called by State Representative Diana DiZoglio who was approached by business owner Eli Haddad of Eli's Breakfast Cafe.

The business owners said they had been told by the Lawrence Planning Board, and some heard from the North Andover Town Hall, that the Mayor was going to widen the street and decrease parking spaces, adding that because of the increased traffic at Riverwalk and Monarch, patrons of those establishments are parking in spots in front of their buildings.

"We are already losing parking for our customers because people park in front of our building and then go across the street," one woman complained.

Others said they were concerned that the Mayor's proposal will put them out of business and said that the neighbors should have been consulted.

But Mayor Rivera said that the proposed changes will only take place if the city is awarded a MassWorks \$4M grant that will include a bike path, widening the street, reducing the sidewalks, and adding a lane among other things.

"I am here to tell you that I hear your



concerns, we get it loud and clear, and we are not going to decrease any parking on Merrimack Street. I know you heard that you are going to lose parking and I am telling you it's simply not true. I will make sure that does not happen. We are not going to let that happen."

"We are applying for this grant and if we get it, we will work with the neighbors, we will incorporate your concerns into the project; but you have to understand this needs to be done, the way it is now is causing too many problems and I don't want to see a kid get killed on this

street because of the way things are right now," the mayor continued.

"This right now is only a proposal, it will change but before there is a final plan we will come back and show it to you, hold a meeting and take all your concerns into account. But what I am hearing today is not that you lost parking spaces but that people from Riverwalk are using them. That's a different problem than losing spaces. But I get it, give us a little time to come up with a solution and I will come back to you in two weeks."

Lawrence State Reps. Marcos Devers, Frank Moran and Diana Dizoglio as well as outgoing State Senator Barry Finegold also attended.

"I just want to say one thing," Finegold told the group of about a dozen business and residential owners. "A few years ago we would kill to have a problem like this. There are great things happening here, jobs are being created and with that comes traffic and parking problems. We will do everything we can to address those concerns but this is a good sign and it's a good problem to have for everyone."

"Our problem is that we feel like we have been completely cut out of the process," one business owner told the mayor and state officials. "Why did we have to hear about this from Dan McCarthy's office? Why were we not included in this from the beginning?"

Mayor Rivera said that he was miffed with the planning department and apologized for not including the business owners but that he will work with them from this point on.

"That's on me. We didn't do it right and I apologize for that. Nobody should have told you that you were losing parking spaces. I should have reached out to you guys and I own that, but we are here now and I am telling you that the rumors you heard are not true. I can also tell you that you will be included in the process from here on out."

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Paying Attention!
WITH TOM DUGGAN

Dick Howe Jr.'s Hatred

Anyone who listens to my radio show on Saturday mornings on 980WCAP in Lowell (10-noon) knows that I spend a lot of time picking on station owner Colonel Sam Poulten. On any given Saturday you will most likely hear me mocking his unique voice or complaining about the way things are going at the station in an attempt to humanize the iconic station owner who, being a good sport, has never asked me to stop.

But, when Lowell's wanna-be king maker, Registrar of Deeds Dick Howe, attacked Poulten on his blog last month questioning why Poulten appeared at a foreclosure auction wearing his military uniform, it wasn't light hearted poking fun. It was a viscous attack on Poulten's reputation.

Though it seems innocuous to anyone who doesn't know the back story, Howe's attack on Poulten was anything but.

Here is what he published on his blog: "In my Week in Review article this past Sunday, I asked "What's Up with Prince Spaghetti?" Back on June 27, 2014, the Lowell Five Cents Savings Bank held a foreclosure auction of the Prince Spaghetti property in South Lowell. The property owner, Prince Avenue Associates LLC, had granted the Lowell Five Cents Savings Bank a mortgage of \$8 million on the property. The high bidder at the auction was Sam Poulten, the owner of radio station WCAP who for some reason appeared at the auction in a US Army uniform."

He then published a photo of Poulten at the event (originally published in the Lowell Sun) to make his point.



The back story is this: for years Dick Howe, Jr. and his band of hateful activists have spread a narrative that Sam Poulten has a screw loose and runs around town in his uniform as a way of reliving his old glory days in the military. Howe's post about Poulten wearing his uniform to a foreclosure was a direct attempt to further that narrative and smear a man who risked his life to protect our country.

But, what Dick Howe, Jr. doesn't want people to know is that Colonel Sam Poulten plays TAPS at military funerals and is often asked to speak to large veteran groups.

On the day of the foreclosure the Colonel had two events, a military funeral and the foreclosure. Not having any time to change between events, Poulten was forced to attend the foreclosure in full dress uniform.

But things like that don't matter to people like Howe, who apparently despises the military (as a left wing moon bat) and loves to spread hate and propaganda.

Maybe instead of attacking a war hero like Sam Poulten and spreading hate, dishonoring all of our military and their sacrifices, Howe should concentrate more on attending his no-show Registrar of Deeds.

Shame on you Dick Howe, Jr.

Tired of Making History, Lowell?

John Macdonald
VALLEY PATRIOT LOWELL COLUMNIST

When it comes to politics are we tired yet of making history? Are we tired of voting for candidates, because they are the first of something?

What do I mean?

Are we done voting for candidates based on what they might represent versus what they stand for? Are we done voting for a candidate because they check a box versus voting for the person and the issues they stand behind? Are we finally past the days of voting for someone solely because of the color of their skin, gender or ethnic background? Are we done voting for candidates strictly because they have a D or an R next to their name? My opinion is simply... No.

I do believe may registered voters are hung up in being part of something historic. Disinterested in detail and caught up in the hype and the buzz. Record turnouts came about in recent Presidential elections, so we could vote for the first African American President. Same holds true for Massachusetts two election cycles ago, where we voted in droves for the first African American Governor. The race for Governor this year in MA is being pitched by some as "The Year of the Woman". And in 2016 hang on for the Hillary train!

Now would I proclaim that everyone who voted for President Obama did so based on his "First" status? No. I actually think it belittles candidates who hang their caps on their race or gender alone. However I am willing to bet the majority of the electorate did vote based on the race criteria. How about local political races? Example: Lantiqua vs. Abdoo. The race was billed as voting in the first Latino mayor. Where did that get you Lawrence?

This November, Lowell has its own political race being billed as historic. Voters in the 18th Middlesex will vote for either the first Independent candidate, Fred Bahou or the first Cambodian American candidate and Democrat, Rady Mom to be

our next State Representative. So either way, the voters in Lowell for the 18th Middlesex will make history. There are some who feel it's important to give Rady Mom a vote, because of what he represents to a large contingent of Cambodian American voters living in the district. Vote for him, because he's a first. There are some who feel perhaps it's time to experiment with Fred Bahou and see how an Independent candidate would do representing the 18th amongst a sea of Democrats. Another first.


How about we the voters take the time and actually look at where these candidates stand on the issues? Let's take a look at their back ground and see what they have done with their lives. Let's see where they have stood in the community. Let's see how successful they are in running a business or what they have achieved. More importantly let's look at what they seek to achieve if they get elected? What are their priorities? How well do they know the issues? Where do they stand on issues? Will they work hard for us and do they listen?

I've already been approached by people who have asked me to vote for both candidates here in the 18th Middlesex. Sadly, I'm afraid all too often the requests lack solid issue oriented reasoning. Sure local races tend to fall on the lines of whom you know or who your sister or cousin went to school with, but not this time. The game has changed. Race, gender and political party have permeated into local politics and that alone makes history.



John MacDonald is the President/CEO of Big Decisions, LLC, which is a management consulting business that concentrates on offering strategic advice on Marketing, Public Relations, Economic/ Business Development and Social Media. John has a long career of success, achieving record results in the communications field and spending over 20 years managing marketing budgets, driving the bottom line in the financial services, restaurant, retail and real estate industries.

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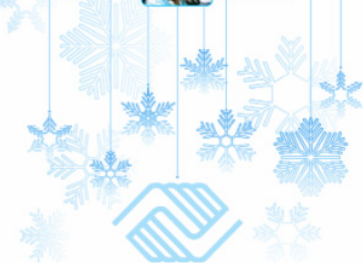
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How One Party Rule Fuels Fraud and Mismanagement in MA

The Valley Patriot has covered many state corruption stories in the past ten and a half years. What we observed in that time is that scandals come and go, but very rarely does anything ever change. Our editorial board sat down with State Representative Jim Lyons and Shauna O'Connell to ask them the gravity of the waste, fraud and abuse in state government and why nothing ever changes.

A corruption trial concluded last July exposing State Representatives and State Senators in leadership positions getting patronage jobs for their donors, friends and families in the state's Department of Probation.

"The state probation corruption trial says it all," Rep. Jim Lyons (D-Andover) said.

"What happened in that trial and what was revealed is a microcosm of what's wrong with Massachusetts politics on a much broader scale. If you just look at that trial I think that will tell you all you need to know about what's wrong with Massachusetts politics. In fact, that's been allowed to exist under the direction of the Speaker and the Senate President without any oversight at all."

"Specifically what they did was they rigged the state hiring system to provide jobs for politicians. Since 2001, the Legislature, the Speaker of the House, and the Senate President have been a microcosm of how state government has become an employment agency for Democrat Legislators and their friends and family."

Asked if anything has changed since the revelation of corruption in the Probation Department, Lyons said that nothing has changed because the conviction of the Probation Commissioner is under appeal. He says that the Legislature is dragging their feet hoping that the issue will fade from the headlines and then continue with "business as usual."

"There were supposedly some ethics reforms done in 2011, but what I think we need to do is go through every single agency in the state to make sure there are systems in place to make sure qualified people are hired and they are not getting the job because they are connected."

"It is up to us as Legislators to do that. I do not see any Democrats calling for any real substantive reform except some of the Democrat candidates when they are running for governor. They talk about how reprehensible it is with the hiring but that's only at election time, other than that I see no Democrats fighting the leadership to fix this corruption problem."

Lyons says that a group of Republicans sent letters to the House Council, (Lombardo, Jeff Diel, Lyons and Shauna O'Connell) asking for direction on how to file a complaint with the House Ethics

Committee.

"How do you change the climate of corruption on Beacon Hill? Elections are how you do it. We need more people in there who are willing to take on the power brokers on Beacon Hill and unless we get more people to do that, this is what you are going to get, business as usual."

CRIME LAB SCANDAL

Lyons estimated that it's going to cost \$330M to the taxpayers as the result of that crime lab scandal where at least one state worker was faking lab results to help the state get more convictions. As the result of that scandal, guilty people are going to be set free as well as innocent people who were wrongly convicted.

"It's a mess," Lyons says. "Apparently the only person in the whole state responsible for that fraud was just the one person who was caught. We try to try and get a real investigation into these things and find out who else was really responsible and it's outrageous. You can't get anywhere. Everything is covered up."

"You have to ask, how can only one person be responsible for all this damage? There's no controls in place at all? Nobody else had to sign off or double check her work? And if that is true, to only have one person in a state agency who can have that kind of an impact is outrageous. This is the problem with the Deval Patrick administration, there is no accountability for anything."

He has had agency after agency where there was scandal after scandal, but the outrage lasts for two or three days and then everything goes back to the way it was. The state is falling apart.

PHARMACY MANUFACTURING SCANDAL - BACKWARD PRIORITIES

"Then we have the pharmaceutical scandal where the compounding labs were not being inspected, they sent out pharmaceuticals all over the country, and hundreds of people got sick. Every restaurant, ice cream stand and sub shop in Massachusetts is inspected on an annual basis. So, I asked the Commissioner, 'What's the procedure that you have in place to inspect these compounding pharmacies that manufacture pharmaceuticals?'"

"Commissioner Smith looked at me and said, 'there is nothing in place.'"

"So, we had manufacturing pharmacies in Massachusetts who had no inspection procedures in place. I could not believe it. I had to ask her, 'are you telling me that there is nothing in place?' She said 'we will inspect on a per-call basis.' So if someone calls with a complaint, they will come in, but they have no set procedures to do that, none, even to this day, long after the scandal took place. It's unbelievable. In my little store in Tewksbury I have to have a back flow inspection twice



a year. These backflow preventers last sometimes 30 years, how come they have to be inspected twice a year, yet we are not inspecting companies that make pharmaceuticals that can kill people if they take the wrong medications? It makes no sense at all, but this is what we have, this is how our state government is being run under a one party system."

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Representative Lyons says that another part of the corruption problem with one party rule in Massachusetts is all the "non-profits" that make millions off of state government. Many of those nonprofits and the people who run them are contributors to the Legislators and then benefit greatly by getting millions in state grants.

"The first thing people need to understand is, just because they are called nonprofit does not mean nobody profits. We did a review of the Department of Public Health (DPH) to see all the salaries that are spent by the executives. So, what happens is the DPH is funded to the tune of \$600M. Then they give out grants to different nonprofits to do jobs. We took a look at all the salaries that these people make. 55% of the executives at those nonprofits make in excess of \$125,000 a year. It's a scam. It's a cottage industry that has been created off the books of the government where millions, if not billions, go off to these folks and it becomes more and more legal patronage for politicians and their friends and families."

YOU SCRATCH MY BACK ...

"You had the Chairman of Education, Marty Walsh, who spent all her time advocating for Planned Parenthood in the Legislature. That's fine, that's her belief. But, whether you are for abortion or not, when she left she immediately took a job for \$250,000 with Planned Parenthood. I filed an ethics complaint against her saying how can one leave the legislature as a proponent of Planned Parenthood and then take a job for a quarter of a million dollars. Remember, she was also the Chairman of the Education Committee when they tried to bring in Common Core. Not one hearing was held on Common Core to change what has been an exceptional education system that we spent billions and billions of dollars since 1993. It was put in to make Massachusetts #1 in the country, which we were, and they decided to change the whole education system without one hearing. It's flabbergasting."

"Mitchell Chester is the Commissioner of Education and is on the educational task force vested with making sure all these local school districts give these Park Tests out. Where is Mitchell Chester's next job going to be?"

"Now, some school districts are starting to reject the Park Tests, but that's because they are just now starting to learn about it. They are learning things nobody even knew about and that's exactly what they wanted. They wanted to change the system without any public input, without any hearings, without any scrutiny. And now look at it."

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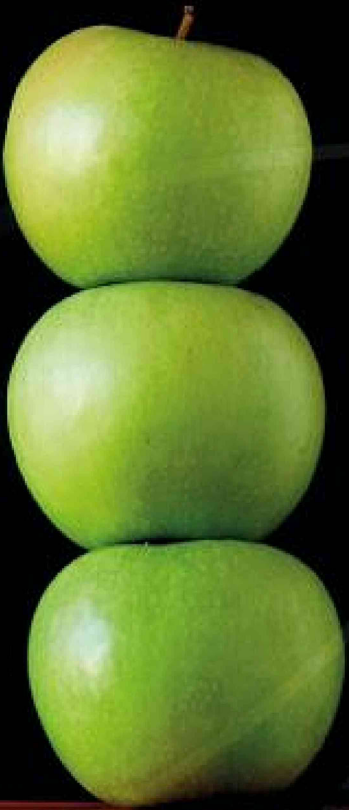
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How One Party Rule Fuels Fraud and Mismanagement Pt. II

The Valley Patriot has covered many state corruption stories in the past ten and a half years. What we observed in that time is that scandals come and go but very rarely does anything ever change. Our editorial board sat down with State Representative Jim Lyons and Shauna O’Connell to ask them the gravity of the waste, fraud and abuse in state government and why nothing ever changes.

State Representative Shauna O’Connell has been one of the more outspoken state representatives in the legislature. We asked the representative to talk about the fraud and mismanagement in the Welfare Department and other areas of state government and what can be done to have more accountability, less fraud and greater transparency in state government.

AUDITS AND NO ACTION

State Auditor Suzanne Bump has released several audits in the last few years exposing fraud and lack of any accountability in several state agencies. Among other things, Bump’s audit found 1,164 dead people receiving welfare benefits, and 30,000 blank EBT cards (welfare cash cards) completely unaccounted for. She also found dead people receiving social security benefits, illegal aliens and non-residents illegally receiving government services. We asked O’Connell if they audits were helpful in rooting out fraud waste and mismanagement.

“It’s certainly helpful to have the audits because it’s very difficult for us to get the information we need on how our money is being spent. When I make information requests from (DTA) Department of Transitional Assistance also known as welfare, I think it’s easier to get classified information from the National Archives than DTA. It would be more helpful to have an even more thorough audit and actually have an auditor who follows through and makes sure changes are implemented. I would rather have an auditor who goes above and beyond the call of duty to stop fraud in the system.”

EVERYTHING IS ON THE HONOR

SYSTEM

“This is why I have been pushing to take the enforcement division out of DTA’s hands and put it in the Inspector General’s office. Right now, DTA is self-policing. We report all this fraud and we learn about people spending all this money in the Virgin Islands and Hawaii and nothing ever happens,” says Rep. O’Connell.

“Right now I am trying to get information on ten people getting benefits and spending their money in Hawaii. We are trying to find out exactly how long they were spending their money in Hawaii before getting their benefits cut off. They won’t give us the information. So, yes it’s helpful to have the audit information but we need more transparency from these agencies.”

“I’ve filed an amendment to make sure welfare recipients can only spend their money in Massachusetts or in a bordering state. The excuse they gave for rejecting it was, “What if someone has a wedding to go to out of state or has to care for a sick relative?” Nobody is paying for you, me or any regular Joe working every day, to go to a wedding in Hawaii. I always come back to, welfare is supposed to be a temporary assistance program. If you are on public assistance, everything should be about working towards self-sufficiency. If you are not going to make sacrifices for that, then why are we subsidizing your bills with other people’s sacrifices?”

“Another problem is that DTA does not do a thorough check of assets. It’s the honor system where they ask if you have any assets when you apply, like bank accounts etc. They are supposed to check people’s tax returns with DOR and they are supposed to do an asset check, but they don’t. I filed a bill asking that we do asset, identity and background checks to verify that information and that also has been rejected. So, we are looking at a Legislature that has had ample opportunity to enact much stronger reforms and they have rejected many of those opportunities.”

Representative Lyons agrees and says that the corruption and mismanagement in state government has infected every agency in Massachusetts.

“In 2004 or 2005, the auditors reports came out that told the Department of Children and Families (DCF) that they were not to use what’s called ‘place holder social security numbers.’ If you go to the Social Security office and you don’t have a social security number, they will assign you a temporary number called a place holder social security number.”

“Part of the Inspector General’s audit that came out said that if you have a child going to the public schools, one of the things they are supposed to do is notify DCF that they are going to school and prove it. The reason they want them to prove it is they want to make sure if you are getting benefits for children, that there are in fact children in the household.”

“So, the audit done by the Inspector General that came out last year said they interviewed 57 recipients who received benefits. In the sample they found that the number of people who had complied with that element of the DCF requirement was zero. Nobody in Massachusetts had proved that they had children in school while getting benefits from the state. If you read this IG report in detail, it astounding. It’s a lack of transparency and total disregard by the Deval Patrick administration to follow any rules, regulations, or procedures,” Lyons said.

Reps. Lyons and O’Connell say nothing will ever change as long as the Democrats have a super-majority in the Legislature to sweep things under the rug. “What we need is enough Republicans to hold their feet to the fire,” Lyons says.

“These scandals come out all the time and whether it’s DTA, DCF or the crime lab scandal,” O’Connell continued, “everyone yells and screams for change. They try to smooth it over with the public and then they go away and we are not always aware of what is going on. I often file requests to



find out what is going on. I tried to have a yearly audit of the DTA (welfare). That was rejected as well because if we had a yearly audit, we would find out if these reforms were really working, and what isn’t working.”

PAROLE

We asked the Representatives about the Parole Board and whether or not they have become lenient again since the Dominic Cinelli incident. Cinelli was serving three life sentences and was paroled after getting his GED and taking public speaking courses. Cinelli shot and killed Woburn Police officer Jack Maguire just days after being released.

“I’m not sure who oversees the Parole Board,” O’Connell answered. “We make these fixes because people get outraged and quickly it goes back to the way they were, that is because of the leadership, or lack of leadership, of Deval Patrick.”

REHABILITATING CHILD RAPISTS

Representative O’Connell says that the next looming problem is the Sex Offender Registry Board and says that the Patrick Administration is trying to water down the regulations “Because they think we should be rehabilitating child rapists.”

“This issue is very serious and people need to know about it. Deval Patrick just

CORRUPTION: NEXT PAGE

FROM PAGE 8: LANTIGUA MOUNTS COMEBACK

credit for Rivera’s win, he also had the active support of Senator Elizabeth Warren (who made phone calls to voters), Congressman Niki Tsongas, former State Rep. Dave Torrisi, State Senator Finegold and most of the Democrats whom Lantigua had championed for reelection only a year earlier.

DUMPING THE DEMOCRATS ... AGAIN

This year, former State Rep. and former Lawrence Mayor Willie Lantigua has left

the Democrat Party again and is running as an Independent against Devers. If this was simply a one on one race, Lantigua would be a clear frontrunner. But this is not a one on one race. But this election for State Rep. is not just a contest between Lantigua (I) and Devers (D). Lawrence City Councilor Roger Twomey has entered the race as a Republican.

WILL THE REPUBLICAN SECURE A VICTORY FOR LANTIGUA

Twomey himself has a long history of

getting between Lantigua and Devers.

In his role as Licensing Commissioner in Lawrence, he ran afoul of Lantigua when he inspected Adams Cyber Cafe in 2005 and cited them for illegally purchasing alcohol. The owner of the bar was a campaign contributor to Lantigua, sending Lantigua into a fury and demanding Twomey be fired. Twomey’s name was sent down to the Lawrence City Council with a recommendation by then Mayor Sullivan (whom Lantigua was allies with) for being “racist” and targeting “Latinos”.

Lantigua threatened to destroy any “Latino” city councilor who sided with Twomey, Marcos Devers being the main target of those threats. When Marcos Devers cast his deciding vote, he excoriated Lantigua calling HIM a racist and casting his vote not to fire Twomey. Devers then supported Twomey when he successfully ran for City Council believing he had earned an ally who could help the city fight against the Lantigua machine.

Much to the dismay of Marcos Devers, City Councilor Roger Twomey quickly became Willie Lantigua’s strongest ally. He supported almost every major initiative Lantigua put before the city council and was tone deaf to the corruption and political manipulations that were taking place in Lawrence City Hall.

A LITTLE MATH

Lawrence is carved up among three state representative districts. In the neighborhoods of North Lawrence that sit in the

16th Essex District, Lantigua soundly defeated Dan Rivera in the mayor’s race, and that was one on one. While Rivera won city wide (50.1%), he lost in the neighborhoods that make up the 16th Representative District.

With Twomey in the race as a third candidate, those voters in the 16th District will now be dividing the anti-Lantigua voters (50.1%) by two: Devers and Twomey.

Twomey and his supporters say that those numbers are irrelevant because he can get Lantigua voters to swap sides and push him over the top. For that to happen, Twomey would have to not only steal support from Lantigua supporters in Dominican neighborhoods, but he would also have to convince 10-15% of Marcos Devers core base of support to swap sides as well.

Lawrence Mayor Dan Rivera also believes that having two candidates going up against Lantigua divides the anti-Lantigua vote. Rivera has not only endorsed Devers, he has often said on the campaign trail “a vote for Roger Twomey is a vote for Willie Lantigua”. Rivera told The Valley Patriot that with Twomey in the State Rep., he is “hoping for another miracle, if Willie Lantigua gets elected to the Legislature it will be a public relations disaster for the city of Lawrence. People need to understand that there’s only one person who can beat Lantigua and that’s Marcos Devers. If Willie returns we are in for a long ride.”

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PART II

Rebecca Pearson
VALLEY PATRIOT NEWBURYPORT COLUMNIST

He was married for 30 years, having 5 wonderful sons. Stephen, the oldest, is a computer specialist he is an IT director in Rochester, NY and went to Rochester College; his son, John, is a professional wrestler with WWE and went to Springfield College and has a daughter Nichole; Sean went to college; Daniel has two degrees in criminal justice and is a sergeant in the West Newbury Police Department and has a young daughter named Ashland and married to Janet; Mathew is a service rep and writer for Mercedes Benz who has two daughters, Shelby and Noel, and married to Coverly . “I’m very fortunate to have two wonderful daughters because I don’t have any daughters,” he says with a smile.

The Wrestler: John Sr. always used to watch television with his grandfather he would go there on Saturdays and Sundays and watch wrestling on his black and white TV. His grandfather would go and take a nap and he would turn the TV to wrestling. When TV turned to color TV, his grandfather thought it would automatically change over to colored TV, which of course it did not, which he laughed about. He began his love for wrestling then, and started going to shows, became a promoter and then a manager. Along his path in wrestling, he has met some of the greats which include



Chief Jay Strongbow, Classy Freddie Blassie, Padro Morales, Stan Stasiak who has passed away, Jake The Snake Roberts, Tito Santana, Greg The Hammer Valentine. Daniel and John use to accompany him to professional wrestling shows. They would by the nosebleed seats because “we were not rich with money, but rich with love.” When cable television came out, John was the first person to get a cable TV just to watch wrestling. Then, Pay per views were only \$12, now they are up to almost \$60. The whole family including his dad would watch wrestling. John Sr. also did ring announcing for MMA. After seeing an ad in the paper for a wrestling ring announcer at Starwars Wrestling in Salisbury, he went for the ring announcer and left a Heal Manager “a bad guy.” The character, Johnny Fabulous, was made and born at Starwars Wrestling. Vince and Kennedy McMann from WWE has been an amazing part of his life, and all began in 2001 when John Cena, Sr. was introduced to the crowds, “I can’t thank the McMann’s enough, they are an amazing family and have given me and my family such wonderful opportunities and I can’t thank them enough.” Two great names, one outstanding person!

His three most memorable experiences in professional wresting were when John was fighting Edge for the Heavyweight Championship, which you can YouTube the amazing slap that happened. The second was when John was fighting Randy Orton; John, Sr. was pulled over the top rope and kicked in the head and had to be rushed to the hospital, then three weeks later, John, Sr., at a pay per view, was able to kick Randy back and get his revenge. John, Sr. got to do his debut. When Jonathan Coachman was the general manager of RAW, John, Sr. found himself in the ring battling it out with Randy Orton while John, Jr. was handcuffed to the ring. “I love you dad, and you don’t



have to do this” John’s son said as the senior John entered the ring to help him keep his title, “I love you too, and that’s why I have to do this,” was John, Sr.’s remarks to his son as he walked through the ropes. “Two things I remember the most is the kick in the head, and the rope, and would love the opportunity to come back and do some more and work again with the McMann’s.”

The Justice of the Peace: John, Sr. when he was younger wanted to become a priest, but realized god had different intentions for him. There was an opening for a Justice of the Peace in West Newbury, after sending in his paper work he is also allowed to solemnize a marriage. “I want the weddings to be meaningful and to be a great day, so I interview the couples to get to know them and help them make their day as special as it should be.” He also writes all services that he does. He has been marring couples now for over 14 years. “I’m having a great time doing it and have many memorable experiences. He has married people at The House of the Seven Gables for a gothic wedding; King Arthur’s wedding where they were king and queen with nights and armor and ladies in waiting; he has done ceremonies at the beach; also he had married his son John in his first marriage. One of his most memorable marriages he performed was a woman that had cancer and was

in the service in the desert. He came back from the war and wrote their own vows and she showed up in a horse and carriage, and was simply wonderful and memorable.”

Another incredible thing that I learned about John, Sr. is that every year he plays Santa Claus for local charities, passing the love of the holiday season to those that need a little extra love around the holidays. It began around the early years when he was 15 years old because he grew up in an Italian area, and no one spoke Italian, so he would go around speaking to the children in Ital-

ian keeping the holiday magic alive. He even gave a family in need presents, food and a tree after visiting their home as Santa and seeing that their holiday happiness needed a helping hand. “Open hands brings smiles, that’s what

the holidays are all about. Santa Claus is kindness, he is love, he is giving, and in the heart I don’t care how old you are. Christmas is not just for children, Santa is in the heart of everyone.” Like I said earlier, just a wonderful example of this kind hearted nature.

When ending the interview, I asked John what we would like to pass on to the readers of The Valley Patriot. He smiled and with a wonderful look in his eyes he said, “To people in love, married couples, couples going together, being together, people with families, first of all take time for each other. One day a week, make a date night, I don’t care if you walk the beach holding hands, if you go to the movies, or go to dinner. Take time for you. No matter what demands are made upon you or your day. Love your children because they grow so quickly, I worked so hard and missed so many things with my sons that I can never get back. Love them, love each other, love is the greatest gift in the world, that I think we have forgotten how to share that and how to give that. Enjoy good food, enjoy good company, live life to the fullest with those you love, and do the things you want to do. Because life is like a match, once it’s lit and the wind blows it out, you can never relight it. And the one thing you never want to do is to look

JOHN CENA, SR: PAGE: 28

CORRUPTION: FROM PAGE 22

fired the Executive Director and the Chairman of the Board of the Sex Offender Registry Board. He came right out and said he did it for revenge because they made his brother-in-law register as a sex offender. There should be a lot more outrage there because right now, we are in the midst of rewriting the regulations for the Sex Offender Registry Board.”

So now he has taken out a person with many years of experience on the board and someone who was an experienced prosecutor and replaced them with someone who has no experience. I will say this; nobody has ever accused Deval Patrick of being tough on sex offenders. My fear is that this is a move to weaken the Sex Offender

Registry Board because their philosophy is not to punish men who rape children, but to treat them and rehabilitate them.

“Without more Republicans in the Legislature this is going to continue,” Lyons agreed. “What people have to understand is that it’s an insider’s club. Nobody wants to run afoul of the leadership. So without more balance in the Legislature, this is never going to stop. It’s when you have two parties rule that there are checks and balances. With one party running every single branch of government with an overwhelming majority, the corruption and mismanagement is going to continue at the same pace and quite frankly, I don’t know how long the state can survive like this.”

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For the Good of Animals, Granite Staters Should be Weary of Craigslist

D.J. BETTENCOURT
VALLEY PATRIOT NEW HAMPSHIRE COLUMNIST

At the Salem Animal Rescue League, we appreciate that the vast majority of pet owners love their pets and could never imagine having to give them up for adoption. Sadly, sometimes desperate situations arise in which it's the only option.

We see this heart wrenching situation everyday at our shelter and we work tirelessly to ensure that every family that walks through our door is treated with compassion and respect. Additionally, we are committed to finding every animal in our care a permanent and loving home.

Recently, SARL has taken note of an influx of individuals turning to classified advertisement websites, like Craigslist, to re-home their pets. For a variety of animal welfare reasons, we strongly discourage the use of Craigslist in re-homing or adopting animals.

Craigslist is a wonderful and affordable option for people who are looking to buy or sell furniture, cars, apartments and many other items. And while Craigslist does not allow the sale of animals in its Terms of Use, it does allow for the re-homing of animals with an "adoption fee." Unfortunately, this practice leads to many unintended consequences.

First, it is important to remember that transactions on Craigslist are almost completely unregulated. This means that pets posted for adoption are sometimes coming out of illegal puppy and kitten mills. These operations do not follow responsible breeding practices, which can result in animals being severely neglected or having genetic disorders. Furthermore, often times, the lineages of animals are falsified.

When using Craigslist, not only is the public unaware where the animals are coming from, sellers also are unaware of where the animals are going. Sadly, sometimes people adopt pets for cruel practices, like dog fighting. Another unfortunate situation involved a poster selling three-day old puppies. It was later discovered that the mother of the puppies was stolen. Some other cases have been reported in which animals are being sold on Craigslist for use in unlicensed and unregulated scientific research labs.

These "adopters" pose as benevolent pet lovers but it is hard to confirm their authenticity without screening tests that shelters, like SARL, employ.

Individuals posting or adopting pets on Craigslist are taking a huge risk and may unknowingly contributing to inhumane animal welfare practices.

We believe the best option for individuals who need to surrender their animals or are looking to adopt is the use of services of licensed and trusted animal rescues. Alternatively, should you choose to re-home your animals through the Internet, there are a few important tips that should be followed:

1. Always meet potential adopters in person;
2. Always visit your pet's new home beforehand to ensure it is safe;
3. If the adopting individual currently has a pet, check with their veterinarian to see what type of care they have provided the animal;
4. Ensure that the whole adopting family is on board with the adoption and ask for a re-homing fee to put value on your pet and to see if the individual can afford the pet and is willing to take care of it.

Remember, individuals who look to accumulate animals for dog fighting or other nefarious purposes commonly arrive accompanied by woman and children to give the appearance that the pet is headed to a good home with a friendly family. This underscores the importance of collecting background information and a home check.

The Salem Animal Rescue League is a no-kill shelter. This means your animal will never be euthanized for space or because it may be harder to adopt. Animal rescues provide the certainty that a Craigslist transaction can never provide: certainty that a healthy pet will only be placed in a safe and loving home.

D.J. Bettencourt served as a State Representative in the New Hampshire House of Representatives from 2005 to 2012 and was the House Majority Leader for the 2011-2012 legislative term. He currently works as the Director of Development and Community Relations at the Salem Animal Rescue League and serves on the Economic Development Action Committee in Salem, NH.



FBI to Start Tracking Animal Cruelty Cases

Tracey Zysk
VALLEY PATRIOT DOGGIE COLUMNIST

On September 17, 2014 the announcement many of us animal advocates had been waiting for finally was released. The FBI was going to start tracking animal cruelty cases.

Wayne Parcell, blogger for the Human Society of the United States, broke the news to our animal networks and the roar of cheers could be heard across the country. YES! Finally, law enforcement will be able to track these important crimes, in detail, as animal cruelty cases.

One may ask, why is this important? Or how are they currently reporting these cases? Well, currently when the FBI documents these vicious acts in their system it is listed as "other offense." This gives little to no information to law enforcement of the acts a person may be committing against our animals.

Animal abuse has statistically been proven to be an indicator for a person to commit other types of "hate" crimes, including murder. Abuse to women, children, and our seniors usually starts with "practicing" on animals. Patterns of sociopaths, extremely violent people and murderers, have shown at one point these individual took part in harming animals.

Parcell also mentioned, "Now that animal cruelty, including animal neglect, is included in the FBI's Uniform Crime Report, there is a real incentive for law enforcement agencies to pay closer attention to such incidents. With accurate data, law enforcement agencies will also be better able to allocate officers and financial resources to handle these cases, track

trends, and deploy accordingly."

Our animal loving State of Mass is more than thrilled with this. Massachusetts has been proactive in fighting for animal rights and protection acts at the state level. These laws, have in return, helped our local police departments press charges against these cowards. We have been a model for many other states to follow as a fore leader in prosecuting animal cruelty, neglect and fighting crimes. Our own Valley Patriot Doggie HERO, Senator Bruce Tarr, has been aggressively working on a Massachusetts Animal Abuser registry list. With the FBI initiating their new tracking system, I am more than confident Sen. Tarr will be able to get our local system up and going in the near future.

This is a wonderful new tool and another WIN in our efforts to help prevent animal abuse!

Tracey Zysk, owner of Wiggles & Jiggles Pet Care in North Andover MA is a local pet care professional. She has been featured on local radio, tv and newspapers educating the general public on animal care and animal health & wellness. Tracey is a proud supporter of Police, Fire & Military K9 units and National Award winner of the Platinum PAW award. Tracey may be reached at wigglewalk@comcast.net. Become a fan on facebook at Wiggles & Jiggles Pet Care.





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Economic Development, Revitalization in Salisbury: Environmental Affairs Undersecretary Visits the Beach

IN YOUR CORNER WITH SENATOR KATY IVES

I recently invited Undersecretary of Environmental Affairs, Martin Suuberg, to join me and Representative Michael Costello to visit Salisbury Beach and learn about ongoing and potential revitalization opportunities at Salisbury Beach Center. Town Manager Neil Harrington, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen Don Beaulieu, Selectman Freeman Condon, Department of Conservation and Recreation officials, and business owners from Salisbury Beach also participated in the site visit. This meeting focused on prospects for a comfort station and boardwalk, which would boost tourism and business at the beach center.

Salisbury Beach stretches for 3.8 miles in the northeast corner of the state, easily accessible by highways and also served by a regional bus service. The beach hosts thousands of visitors every summer and is the only north of Boston beach with ample parking. The beach, however, does lack bathroom facilities, a boardwalk, and handicap access to the sand. In order to compete with beaches just a few miles to the north in New Hampshire, it is neces-

sary for Salisbury Beach to be able to offer basic amenities to visitors.

The recovering economy and devastating winter storms have also compromised the physical and economic health of the formerly vibrant community. Representative Costello and I were able to secure \$300,000 dollars in FY14 for the purchase of sand to repair the badly damaged areas of the beach. The sand placement was completed late this spring and dune plantings and snow fencing will finalize the efforts before winter storms hit the area.

A coordinated effort between business owners, residents and local and state leaders has been launched to foster economic development on Salisbury Beach and restore the area to the thriving destination it once was. A group has formed to create the Salisbury Beach Revitalization Committee and is developing a multi-phase public/private partnership plan. I look forward to being a part of the efforts to revitalize this important recreation area and tourist attraction in our district that will also attract businesses and create jobs.



Forced Deposits a Consumer Con Job

Christine Morabito
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

If Ballot Question 2 passes in Massachusetts this November, your grocery bill and your honey-do list will increase significantly.

This ballot initiative expands the bottle bill of 1983 to include a 5 cent deposit on bottled water, juice, iced tea, sports drinks and other non-carbonated beverages. As has become fashionable on Beacon Hill, this fee will be automatically adjusted (ahem, increased) every 5 years due to inflation, without our legislators ever having to vote for something this distasteful again.

There are so many reasons to oppose this:

We are a busy people. The last thing we need to worry about is how to store a bunch of rubbish until we can schlep it to the nearest redemption center on Saturday morning, then wait in line at the service counter just so we can get back the \$1.20 deposit we paid for that case of Poland Spring. This is efficient, modern age recycling?

Chances are we will come to realize that time is money, and toss the bottles into our curbside recycling bins, forfeiting the deposit. Surely, our neighborhood trash picker will be happy to collect the bottles and the money.

Opponents of this initiative are ac-



cused of misleading the public by stating that politicians get to keep the unclaimed deposits. This bill promises to create a Clean Environment Fund, as if this is some novel idea. But we already had such a fund when they began collecting soda and beer deposits. That well-intentioned fund has since been raided, funneling \$350 million to state government over the last 10 years.

Just like our ever increasing sales tax and gas tax, forced deposits are a regres-

sive tax, which affect low income people the most. Statistics show the poor are least likely to recycle, hence, not likely to recoup the deposits. As Elizabeth Warren likes to say, those who can least afford it will be “getting hammered.” And how do we expect the elderly on fixed incomes to jump through the bottle redemption hoops, when they may not even have a car?

Proponents of forced deposits say the cost will be a mere 5 cents a bottle, so what’s the big deal? But, we are not hearing about the increased handling fees also in the bill. Beverage distributors will be required to increase the fee paid to dealers, and bottlers will pay more to distributors and dealers for each returned container.

Since the distributors and bottlers reap no benefit from the deposit, this bill actually increases their cost of doing business. We are naïve if we believe those costs won’t be passed on the consumer in the form of higher priced beverages. In turn, our grocer will have to raise prices on lots of different items to make up their loss. Now residents living on the New Hampshire and Rhode Island borders will have one more reason to buy groceries across state lines.

What about the additional burden on

grocery stores like our beloved Market Basket? They already sacrifice valuable, retail space to operate bottle redemption equipment. The machines cost money to clean, empty and otherwise maintain. How will they handle the tsunami of new bottles? What about the sanitation considerations? Do we really want each and every customer bringing all those germmy bottles into a store that sells food? The myriad of bottle shapes and sizes added to the mix will not fit into the old machines, so customers may have to redeem them at the customer service counter.

According to the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, nearly all Massachusetts towns already offer some type of recycling program. And, we already pay for them. Bottle deposits made sense 30 years ago, before we had widespread community recycling. Northbridge Environmental Management Consultants conducted an environmental impact study that shows Question 2’s deposit system would cost 10 times more than curbside recycling, and the increase in recycling rates would be a mere 0.13 percent, or one-eighth of one percent of the waste stream. So, what we have is an expensive law with very little reward.

What makes more sense is to expand curbside recycling to all communities. Curbside recycling saves money, allows a larger variety of materials to be recycled, requires a smaller carbon footprint and will not financially burden our most vulnerable citizens.

Beacon Hill has been trying for 12 years to pass this expanded bottle bill, anticipating a windfall of some \$27 million yearly in unclaimed deposits. They were unsuccessful for the same reason there is overwhelming opposition to it as a ballot initiative – because it’s just bad public policy. Let’s move forward, not backwards on recycling - vote NO on Question 2.



Christine Morabito is a resident of Haverhill and former President of the Greater Boston Tea Party. You can email her at christine.morabito@hotmail.com

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Ye Gay Ol' Valley

23 Year Old Father Diagnosed With Tumefactive MS

D. B. Langevin
LESBIAN COLUMNIST
VALLEY PATRIOT PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Tavis Marceau was a hard working family man putting in 60 hours a week for the moving company at which he was employed. He put in long hours so that he could provide a good life for his 2-year-old son, Aiden, the love of Tavis' life and his whole world. Having grown up with little contact with his own father, Tavis put all he could into be a loving, caring, and present father to his own son. His friends and family say that Tavis always puts his family's needs before his own. In June, Tavis' world began to change dramatically

It all began when he inexplicably passed out at work hitting his head that required stitches. It was believed, at the time, that dehydration caused him to pass out. Not long afterward, Tavis, a strong and active young man of 23, began to have difficulty walking and talking. On top of that, he was plagued with almost constant nausea and soon had to quit his job and move to Maine where his mother, Julie, lives.

For over a month Tavis was going back and forth between his mother's home and the hospital enduring multiple MRI's and CAT scans only to receive no answers. Eventually Tavis would lose his sight in one eye, have some paralysis on the left side of his body, numbness in his face and be riddled with uncontrollable laughing. He also had a great deal of difficulty talking. Finally, a spinal tap would reveal that he has Tumefactive Multiple Sclerosis.

What exactly is MS? Picture your nerves to be like wires covered in plastic coating. The coating around our nerves is called myelin. MS causes lesions that create breaks in a nerve's myelin. Our brain sends messages via our nerves to other parts of our body to carry out particular functions. For patients with MS, when those messages cross these lesions, they never get to their destination causing the body to react in a number of different ways. Tumefactive MS lesions are more like round tumors rather than just bald spots in the myelin. They are aggressive, unpredictable, and have debilitating effects on the brain and body.

Tavis is currently undergoing a new plasma fusion treatment which takes out the 'bad' plasma and replaces it with healthy, new plasma. According to his family, he is having some very positive reactions to this treatment. He has some voluntary movement in his fingers on his left hand and has some in his left arm, as well. His legs are beginning to try to work and he can take a few "ugly" steps as Tavis calls them.

Once he is well enough, he will be moved to a rehab facility to concentrate on his recovery.



In August he was told that the rehab facility would not accept him because he does not have health insurance due to his unemployment. This is when his family began raising money to help Tavis pay for his rehabilitation. In September he was accepted into the program.

Tavis' main concern is with his son, Aiden. He wants nothing more than to get healthy, go back to work and continue to be the father he wants to be to his boy. His attitude is strong and his resolve unmovable. He has an incredibly positive outlook on his future and is meeting every challenge his new diagnosis throws at him with a fierce strength both emotionally and physically.

Nobody knows when Tavis can get back to being the hard working family man he longs to be, or what the future holds for him. He and his family are concerned that they will not be able to meet the increasing medical bills, or how long he will be kept in rehab because of his lack of health insurance. They have created a fundraiser to help Tavis. By going to www.giveforward.com and typing the name Tavis Marceau in the 'find a fundraiser' window, YOU can help by donating. They are trying to raise \$10,000 but have less than \$1500. Just like the ice bucket challenge I challenge EVERY Valley Patriot reader to donate anything you can spare to help Tavis get back on his feet again so that he can provide for and play with his 2 year old son again. Please help Tavis regain the life he desires and deserves.



Dani Langevin is a teacher and has a Bachelors in Fine Art and Masters in Education. She has written four young adult novels, one of which is self-published. You can email Dani at Dani-BLangevin@aol.com

Beneath The Surface

Five Reasons the "War on Women" is Not Going Away

Paul Murano
VALLEY PATRIOT EDITOR'S CHOICE AWARD

There are five reasons the war on women theme will continue through November's election:

- 1) Many voters will believe anything if repeated enough through the media.
- 2) "Women's groups" like NOW need to justify their existence and feel relevant.
- 3) "Man-hate" is easy for experts at emotional and psychological manipulation to conjure up for Democratic votes before elections. Unfortunately, there will always be college girls to exploit and a plentitude of other women who have felt used or abused by males in their lives.
- 4) Countless people have already been conditioned to believe the false narrative that equality means sameness - through four decades of relentless bombardment by the media and academia.
- 5) Those who are wise enough to know the real war on women is being waged by those decrying a war on women often lack the courage or ability to coherently articulate this hypocrisy.

Let us go beneath the surface on these points. Since man's fall from paradise, domination and lust have been unleashed into the male-female dynamic. Since then women have been victims of abuse, being used as domestic servants, sex slaves, prostitutes, concubines, pornography objects, temporary "relationship" fixes, and ex-wives dumped for younger women. As a response to this historical injustice two kinds of feminism have arisen.

The first seeks to raise femininity and womanhood to its rightful place as equal and complementary partners with men. This was the Christian response, grounded in the belief that each gender images God with equal dignity and distinct complementary natures. The second kind of feminism is to deny the feminine nature of woman and re-define her to fit the male prototype. This is the secular humanist answer. It teaches women to fight domination and lust by becoming dominant and lustful, to become the evil they fight in order to conquer it. The Christian model fights evil with love and sees equality as harmony; the secular humanist model fights evil with evil and sees equality as sameness.

Although the secular model of feminism has conquered the minds of most young people today, up until relatively recently this was not the case. When a woman walked into a room, men would stand up, remove their hats, and cease to speak in profanities. Chivalry was the norm and respect for women placed them on a proverbial pedestal. Today's "feminism" (which is really masculinism), however, has re-interpreted this chivalry to be insulting, and, through the media and academia, has successfully taught an entire generation

of women that to be successful one must resist their natural gift of feminine modesty to become aggressive and promiscuous. A woman "wins" equality by being on birth control and demanding that the government pay for it, while aggressively climbing the corporate ladder.

When the feminine nature is suppressed it leaves three degrading options for women: act more like a man, more like a harlot, or both. A "successful" woman is portrayed in the media as being both aggressive and sexy. She is able to kick a man's butt and look perfect in a string bikini. The role model for womanhood today is a combination of Wonder Woman and Sandra Fluke; and if anyone challenges it they are "misogynists" waging a "war on women."

Ironically, this leftist ideology of equality that aims to erase as much sexual difference as possible, attacks women. Instead of inspiring men to honor and cherish them, young women are told to seek independence while polluting their bodies with artificial chemicals and hormones so that men may use them in the serial monogamy of today's "relationship" culture. Sadly, this template has contributed to more depression and anxiety than any time in history.

Why have so many bought into this degrading idea that to free women of inequality they must be freed of womanhood? The answers are listed above in points 1 and 4. It is time to challenge the Democrat politician, liberal celebrity, and sociology professor whenever they decry a "war on women" to think deeper about why it may not be such a good idea to reject human nature and dismantle what western civilization has been able to accomplish -- raising respect for the wonder and dignity of women to heights unimaginable when Jesus first broke the mold by conversing with women in public, inviting them to follow Him, and forbidding men to divorce their wives.


It hurts to admit it, but women have been duped. This leaves both sexes unfulfilled. Until the falsehoods are courageously exposed, Democrat politicians will continue their false "war on women" theme, and we will not be fighting the real one.




Paul Murano teaches philosophy and theology at Middlesex Community College, North Shore Community College, and Magdalen College. He is host of Beneath the Surface radio on WCAP (www.facebook.com/fellowtruthseekers), hosts a local TV show, and is co-host of Paying Attention! radio show.

Paul is also founder and chairman of Heartbeat Pregnancy Help in Burlington and is a singer/songwriter/musician. He is the recipient of The Valley Patriot's 2014 Editor's Choice Award.


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THE PEST END GIRLS

The Damage Mice Can Do to Your Home and Your Health

While we all may love the Disney figures, Mickey and Minnie Mouse, and may even enjoy taking our kids to Chuck E. Cheese, we certainly do not want to encounter a mouse or a rat in our own homes. Many are quite squeamish when it comes to these rodents, and rightfully so. In this article, we will discuss the dangers of mice and rats in your home. While you may find the occasional mouse or rat a nuisance, it is critical to realize how dangerous this could be to you and your family.



What dangers do they pose to humans?

1. Parasite Transmitters - Mice and rats can carry a number of diseases, some of which are potentially deadly to humans, like Hantavirus, Listeria, Rat-Bite Fever, Salmonellosis and Bubonic Plague.

2. Allergies - According to a study done by the State of Florida Pest Control Unit, mice and rats can also play a large role in contributing to dangerous allergies. A national study detected mouse urine levels high enough to trigger allergies in 35% of homes. Trace amounts or higher were found in 82% of homes. Mouse droppings are also an allergy issue. There are as many people allergic to mouse droppings as there are to mold and dust. Exposure

to mouse allergen is a known cause of asthma in children and adults.

3. Damage to your home - These critters eat or chew through just about anything including: insulation, wallboards, cardboard, and even wood. Some are especially fond of electrical wiring, which can lead to significant danger. Exposed wires resulting from mice are believed to cause 25% of U.S. house fires.

You may mistakenly believe that if you do not see a mouse or other rodent that you do not have a problem. If you see droppings or chewed wood, furniture or other signs - seek the advice of one of our experts at Pest-End Exterminators and Pro-Tech Lawn Care. Our licensed service technicians are trained to locate areas of rodent activity and potential rodent entry points. Pest-End Exterminators can come up with a plan to eradicate your rodent problem before any of these dangers become a reality.

As always, if you have any questions about the above topic or any other topics regarding pest control or lawn care, please send an email to aforrestall@pestendinc.com.

-The Pest Girls



Lupoli Family Gives \$250K to Lawrence General Hospital

Sal Lupoli and the Lupoli Family have formed a new charitable foundation called Lupoli Pediatric Care and made their first donation to the Lawrence General Hospital's capital fund to the tune of \$250,000.

At a check presentation ceremony at LGH with the Lupoli Family including Sal, his daughter Mary, and his wife Katie, his son Sal, Jr., his brothers Nicholas, Michael, and their spouses and children. Officials from the Lawrence General Hospital accepted the gift last month and unveiled the new naming of the pediatric unit at Lawrence General as "The Lupoli Family Pediatric Care Unit."

"We are here to thank you for one of the largest gifts to date, in Lawrence General's history," said Matthew Caffrey, President of the Board of Trustees for LGH.

"I am thrilled to be able to thank you on behalf of the Lawrence General Board of Trustees and our terrific team of caregivers. I want you to know that we are blessed and appreciative of this \$250,000 gift. I must say the Lupoli Family has been the mover and shaker family of the Merrimack Valley. No one has improved the region more than yourselves [The Lupoli Family]. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for your support of our campaign. We are on a roll, but we would not be so without the Lupoli family."

Flanked by his family, Sal Lupoli of Sal's Riverwalk said he was so blessed that he and his family are fortunate enough to be able to give such a donation.

"I first want to tell you how important this hospital is and what it means to our family. Not a lot of people know this, but my brother James passed away in 2007. When he was diagnosed with Leukemia, he actually came to this hospital for treatment. So, this was the first hospital where we really experienced anything of that magnitude, and we did it at Lawrence General Hospital."

"We could have done it in Boston, we could have gone to Dana Farber, but we believe in this hospital because we believe in what it represents to the Valley. My mom, who is actually the president of this foundation, is critically sick right now, and she wishes she could be here today because she really started the foundation. We felt that the Merrimack Valley, and certainly the citizens of the Lawrence area, need to always focus on Lawrence General Hospital because of what it does."

"We couldn't think of a better idea with the loss of our father in 2003, and our brother in 2007 ... based on our situation than to bring new life into a city. The idea of the pediatric center was because of the loss that we had."

"On behalf of the entire Lupoli Family and the Lupoli Companies, we are proud to be part of Lawrence. We want to continue to bring opportunities like this to the City of Lawrence, we want to help the mothers of the City of Lawrence, and the children of the City of Lawrence and the Merrimack Valley."

After the presentation, the Lupoli family took a tour of the pediatric unit.

JOHN CENA, SR. FROM PAGE 23

back. Never look back, we always make mistakes in life, god knows I have made a lot of mistakes in my life with raising my sons and my mistakes in my marriage, but don't look back on mistakes learn from them , glue the pages from that life together with crazy glue and go to the new chapter, learn and begin again. Love each other, love life, love everything you have and enjoy. And my last thing is don't worry, worry causes wrinkles, heart attacks, worry causes marriage breakups, it causes hate and it causes anger. Hate is a poison, be careful you don't drink your own poison. Worry to me...I have a little saying that my son John gave me 'Don't worry it will all take care of itself', why worry, people need to see the real treasures in life."

So I have to tell you, all in all, during

this interview I found myself in complete awe. Learning about John, Sr.'s life and his family was simply amazing. This article could have gone on forever, and many things we talked about I simply don't have the room to include. A man that had lived through much, loved through many, and found his world surrounded by wonderful children, fantastic friends, fans, and nature.

Thank you John, for having me to your beautiful home, and giving me the opportunity to learn more about you and your life. For more information about John Cena, Sr. or to book him for a charity event for wrestling, or a justice of the peace for your wedding you can find him online at www.JohnnyFabulous.com or www.JohnCenaJP.com

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Gaining Energy and Losing Fat, The Story Behind Insulin That You Must Learn, Part II

Dr. Jin Sung
FUNCTIONAL CHIROPRACTIC

Now get this... guess what your body requires when it is forming these bad fats? A LOT OF ENERGY!

When you get fatigued after meals or crave sugar or coffee—COULD THIS BE WHY?

So not only are you not getting glucose into the cells (which causes fatigue of the cells) you are also tired from this process of lipogenesis. A double-whammy energy-theft!

Wait...it gets even better...during lipogenesis a hormone called leptin stops working. What does leptin do? It tells your brain when you are full!!! Ever wonder why so many of us over-eat?!

Seriously, is your medical doctor telling you this stuff as he's writing your prescription?

1. High levels of insulin create inflammation throughout the body. That's right.

On a blood test, inflammatory markers such as C-Reactive Protein, homocysteine and fibrinogen are going to be high (that's if your doctor is even checking these...).

So you wonder why your spine, knees, hips, shoulders etc. are achy all the time? You can take all the meds you want or get PT or adjusted by your chiropractor but until you remove inflammation from high insulin, relief will be temporary.

2. High insulin is bad, bad, bad for your brain. Among other things, it causes the pituitary gland (in your brain) to excite your adrenal glands too much. Your adrenal glands are your stress glands--they release a very important hormone called cortisol. What does cortisol do? You're

not going to believe this...it INCREASES BLOOD GLUCOSE! Yep. Which then causes higher levels of insulin, which causes more insulin resistance, which causes higher levels of cortisol, which increases blood glucose, which causes higher levels of insulin, which causes... well you get the picture, right?

Here's where it gets complicated, but trust me when I tell you: you do NOT want high levels of cortisol. Why? Well, beyond what I just told you, it suppresses your thyroid function (just when you thought you couldn't get any more fatigued). This leads to weight gain, suppresses your immune system, makes you more susceptible to colds/flu, gut infections...and a lot of other bad stuff.

So, let's talk about what's causing all this high blood glucose. Wouldn't that be nice to know so we could remove the cause, instead of just dealing with the consequences?

1. Poor Diet Duh! We all know this one--but do we really? Are you sure? I have Five Specific Rules which, if every patient follows, will dramatically reduce their blood sugar levels. I will share these with you when we talk.

2. Over-Stimulation Of The Adrenal Glands Remember these guys? They secrete the dreaded cortisol which increases blood glucose. What stimulates these glands?

- Stress: Emotional, Chemical, Physical. Things like:

- Poor Diet: Hmmm...there it is again. What are those Five Specific Rules?

- Alcohol, Nicotine, Caffeine: Need I say more?

- Food Sensitivities: This is when your immune system mistakenly attacks foods

that you eat. The most common culprits are Gluten, Dairy, Soy, Yeast, and Egg. In fact-- if you have a food sensitivity and continue to consume that food, YOU WILL NEVER EVER, EVER get your blood glucose under control. Period.

- Hidden Gut Infections. If you have a chronic bacterial, parasitic, yeast/fungal or viral infection, this will stress your adrenal glands so hard that you will NEVER get cortisol/glucose/insulin under control. Ever.

- Anemia. Your cells aren't getting enough oxygen. We gotta fix that.

- Heavy metal toxicity. I don't mean music. Lead, Mercury, Iron, Copper.

- Too Much Exercise. WHAT?!...but I thought I was supposed to exercise? How much is too much? The answer is very simple and I have it!

The list could go on and on, but those are the common ones.

3. Improperly-functioning thyroid gland

4. Poorly-functioning liver

5. Reduced gut function

Does your doctor check all this? How will you know if you have these problems? PROPER TESTING!!! Have you been told your lab work is 'normal' and 'you're OK'? I don't go by lab ranges because they are too wide, and they're determined by the average patient that came to that lab in the last year. Let me ask you--what types of people generally go to labs: sick or well? Hmmm...so I go by tighter functional ranges that catch illness before they are out of control. For example, the functional range for fasting blood glucose is 85-100.

I will leave no stone unturned to get to the root cause of your insulin resistance.

I order a complete (and I mean complete) blood-chemistry test and determine problems based on functional ranges. I'll test your adrenal glands: I'll thoroughly test your gut for infections and food sensitivities. First and foremost, I'll remove the causes. I will take you by the hand (only if you allow me!) and teach you what you need to do. Then, to change your metabolism back to normal (or as close as possible) I will provide specific scientifically-proven and state-of-the-art nutrients



for a period of time (based on your lab findings, not guesswork!) until we achieve the necessary corrective metabolic shifts.

When it comes to your health, you have a choice. To follow an insurance-driven medical system and take no responsibility for your health except taking your drugs... OR...you can choose to learn the underlying reasons for your health issues and be accountable and responsible to do everything you can do to take care of yourself.

It is my goal and mission in life to teach and empower as many people as I can how to take care of our beautifully-designed and amazingly resilient bodies.



Dr. Jin Sung is a chiropractor and the owner of Functional Chiropractic, Inc. He manages chronic patients both neurologically and metabolically to achieve the best outcome. He can be reached at

978 688-6999. Or visit his website at www.DrJinSung.com

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That Giant Sucking Sound Everyone Ignores

Bharani Padmanabhan, MD
VALLEY PATRIOT MEDICAL COLUMNIST

We are busy everyday displaying our high principles and our utmost concern for the country. This mainly takes the form of vitriol on Facebook and supporting shooting dead poor deserters hoping for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. In the 1800’s the same approach returned runaway slaves to the South. In the 1900’s the same approach betrayed Jews hiding in the barn after escaping a death march. Heinrich Böll even wrote a Nobel-winning book about a deserter - The Lost Honour of Katharina Blum.

The folks actually destroying this country naturally are delighted by these acts of misdirection because it allows them to bleed us dry with no risk of attention. Our exclusive captivation with poor deserters and other powerless individuals is a great gift on top of the lucre we are already allowing them to loot.

Happily there are still some folks who know that there are greater perils to this country than a few poor deserters trying to leave. These are the few who, at far greater risk to themselves than postings on Facebook, take on the task of saving the country and her wealth even when the Government fails, or worse, refuses to do it.

These few folks know and care that when billions get looted from us all, the people are left to fight each other over scraps. Unlike most, these few ask everyday where our money is going. After all, Americans are the most productive people on earth, they work more hours per week than any other, they take far fewer vacations than any other, they get fewer benefits in return than Europeans and yet they are now told there is no money for anything. It remains mind-boggling how few stop and ask, hey, wait a minute, where is all our money going? Why do we need to fight for scraps when we have worked harder than anyone else on the planet? This is the question we should ask upon awakening every morning.

Of the few who ask, even fewer do something about it. Those few are the people who sacrifice their careers for the good of the country, following Solzhenitsyn’s observation - ‘To stand up for truth is nothing. For truth, you must sit in jail.’ And they do it with the blessing of the Lincoln Law, passed by Congress in the time of Abraham Lincoln.

The principles of this law are ancient. Society has always had an interest in safeguarding the public’s common wealth. Every single one thus has the equal right and responsibility to help save the common wealth, which also underlies public record

and open meeting laws. An incentive was created to reinforce this - giving one-third of whatever was saved to the person who raised the alarm. This incentive, now 1000 years old, was put into the Lincoln Law by John Howard, one of the first Senators from the then-new Republican Party.

Which is how we regularly hear news reports about whistleblowers being awarded millions of dollars for privately prosecuting a scam after having lived on nothing for years. In most cases now, it is the ONLY way to hold criminals accountable because the Government has been captured wholesale by the criminals and tip-toes around them.

By 2008, everyone knew that people in high finance had betrayed this country and demanded that they be brought to justice. The Obama Administration refused, lying that sending bankers to prison would hurt jobs. It was evident that the government protected rich criminals, unlike two previous Bush Administrations which sent scores of bankers to prison and collapsed Arthur Anderson over Enron.

Here is Hillary Clinton last week with Lloyd Blankfein of Goldman Sachs - <https://twitter.com/GS10KWomen/status/514571055051317248/photo/1>

This past week we have had the privilege of hearing with our own ears secret tape recordings from within the NY Federal Reserve. All of us should hear the tape recordings for ourselves - <http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/536/the-secret-recordings-of-carmen-segarra>

They reveal how spineless our government regulators are now. So spineless, that they were afraid to even say that Goldman Sachs does not have a Conflicts of Interest Policy.

You and I would think it is not such a big deal to say that given everything else Goldman has done. The Fed begs to differ. Because the government cannot bring itself to say anything bad about Goldman Sachs at all, the bank that Matt Taibbi described as a ‘vampire squid wrapped around the face of humanity, relentlessly jamming it’s blood funnel into anything that smells like money.’

An honest public servant, Carmen Segarra, insisted on stating that Goldman does not have a Conflicts of Interest Policy and got fired for it. To encourage the others, to stick to posting on Facebook.



Bharani Padmanabhan MD PhD is a neurologist and specialises in Multiple Sclerosis in the Boston area. sclerosis@gmail.com

I’m Jewish. Why Should I care about the Basilica of the Annunciation?

Forest Rain Marcia
VALLEY PATRIOT ISRAELI COLUMNIST

The Basilica of the Annunciation is one of the most important places in Christendom. It is located in Nazareth (Israel) and was built over an archaeological find, ruins of an ancient home thought to belong to Mary, mother of Christ. According to tradition this is where the Annunciation took place.

Actually there are two Churches “of the Annunciation” in Nazareth. The first, larger one belongs to the Roman-Catholic Church, but there is also a second smaller church that belongs to the Greek-Orthodox Christians. The Greek-Orthodox Church of the Annunciation is built on the location of underground springs (there is an ancient bathhouse right next door). It is thought that Mary drew water from those springs, and that there she was first visited by the angel who told her that she was destined to be the mother of Christ.

The local Christians have settled the contradiction in stories with the explanation that Mary was visited by the angel twice – first by the spring where she got scared by the enormity of her future and ran home where the angel appeared again, explaining that her fate was sealed.

Both churches, like other religious sites in Israel, are places of daily worship and pilgrimage for countless tourists each year. They are interesting, special and attractive places and I am sure, for believers, very moving. I however am Jewish, so what does this have to do with me?



It’s really simple. It’s about freedom of religion vs freedom of speech. Where does one end and the other begin?

This picture shows what visitors to the Basilica of the Annunciation see as they approach the church. The grey steeple in the background is the roof of the church. In the foreground there is a tiny mosque (see the green roof with the crescent of Islam on top?). On top of the mosque is a tower of loudspeakers, there for the sole purpose of blasting the Muslim call to prayers five times a day. In the heart of this Christian city, practically on top of this extremely important church, the local Muslims found it necessary to create a Muslim atmosphere. I’m not sure how many Muslims pray at this mosque or even how many of the people in that neighborhood are Muslim. The proximity of the mosque is certainly not due to demographic demands; it is about dominating the area.

The signs posted in English are additional evidence of this. These signs are for tourists to see, not the local Christians who, like the Muslims, are Arabs that speak and read Arabic.

These are the words that stare Christians (and Jews) in the face when they visit the Basilica of the Annunciation.

Israel is a democracy, the only true democracy in the Middle East. In the Bible it says that the Nation of Israel was chosen to be a “Light on to the Nations.” Those that hate us interpret this as an arrogant declaration of superiority. Most Israelis consider

ISRAEL: PAGE: 38

Prospect Hill Frontman Adam Fithian Out as Band Elevates Edgar Trancoso as New Lead

Home grown Lawrence, Massachusetts rock sensation “Prospect Hill” let their lead singer, Adam Fithian, go and elevated bassist, Edgar Trancoso, to front-man Thursday after the band held a meeting to notify the signature voice of the band that they were moving on without him.

Prospect Hill hit it big with “Come Alive” off their album “Impact”. The band recently signed a contract with the NFL and was in talks with Major League Baseball. Prospect Hill released their new video “Step out of Line” last month making a bold and controversial statement about the news media, and the role that American pop culture plays in the epidemic of violence in this country.

Late Thursday night, lead singer Fithian posted a message on his Facebook page notifying fans that the band had held a meeting in his backyard where they informed him that “We have reached a crossroad where we feel that we can not move forward as you as our frontman.”

Fithians’ message states that he had no idea he was about to hear the news and had no choice but to “respect what they want”.

Fithian gave no indication what his future might hold or his plans to move forward without the band.

“I gave 9 years of my heart, soul, and emotion to the band,” Fithian says. “This decision was not my choice. I wish the guys the best, and I can promise you this, YOU HAVE NOT HEARD THE LAST OF ME! Stay tuned and please “SHARE” this status.”

Edgar Trancoso, the bassist and new

Prospect Hill lead singer also posted an announcement on his Facebook page stating in part, “After lots of thought and soul searching, Prospect Hill has decided to move forward without lead singer, Adam Fithian. We wish him the best of luck and will support him in his future endeavors.”

Trancoso’s Facebook posting: “In life, just like in music, change is inevitable. For some, it causes fear that is fueled by uncertainty and reinforced by opposition. For others, change can reinvigorate passion and hope for a better tomorrow.

In music, sounds change, styles change, bands change.

The one thing that will always stay constant for us no matter what, is the passion we share with you, our fans and friends. It’s that special bond between performer and listener that keeps us in this unpredictable and ever changing business. You are the fuel that gives rise to our flame, the adrenaline that flows through us and allows us to kill it every night for all 5, 500, or 5000 of you in the crowd.

After lots of thought and soul searching, Prospect Hill has decided to move forward without lead singer, Adam Fithian. We wish him the best of luck and will support him in his future endeavors.

We are proud to announce some exciting moves going forward – Edgar will be stepping front and center as our lead singer, John Roberge will be playing bass, Derek Rousseau will be returning to play guitar, Alex Huston will still be ripping away on guitar and Mark will be smashing drums.”

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TEEN TALK WITH ANA DEBERNARDO

AUTUMN IS HERE!

Now that the dreaded “first month of school” is out of the way, it’s time to focus on my favorite season of the year. Summer daydreams are behind us, and now I can get excited! There are two kinds of people in the world - those who love the fall, and those who don’t. There is no in between.

While some see it as a period of change and death leading up to a season of darkness and cold weather, others, including myself, see it as the most beautiful time of year.

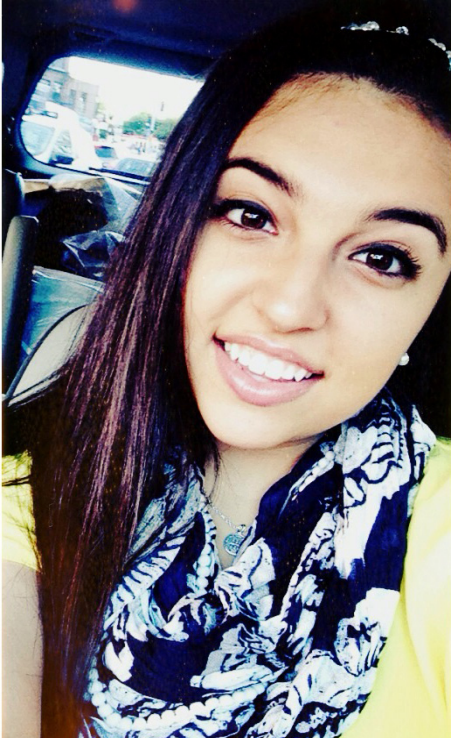
Autumn has always been my favorite season, especially living in New England, which everyone knows to be the prime area of the country for viewing the vividly colored foliage. Everything about the season is enchanting. Although some people may think that living in a certain place can make you immune to its local quirks, the same is not true for me and my home. While I love Massachusetts regardless of the season, the fall reminds me how much I love living here. There is something about this time that makes me feel so warm and fuzzy. From the little pleasures like going apple-picking with my family, to riding the Ferris wheel at the Topsfield Fair with my friends, to the simple joys of the long-awaited “sweater weather” and pumpkin spiced lattes, the fall is a time that inexplicably makes me feel happy.

There are many things that come to mind with the transition from summer to fall. What excites me the most though, is thinking about all the things I’ll soon be doing. For as long as I can remember, it’s been a family tradition to ride up to Cider Hill Farm in Amesbury for our annual routine: hay rides, apple picking, cider donuts, and picking out just the right pumpkins for our front porch. This last item involves the compulsory serious family debate as to the virtues and disqualifiers of probably 50 of them. Four or five of them are lucky enough to come home with us.

The Topsfield Fair is another “fall festivity” that I anticipate all year.

For two weeks, I have an opportunity to indulge in all the kettle corn, amusement rides, and fried dough imaginable, as I compile another bunch of fun memories with friends and family –enough to last me until next fall’s fair.

The last gasp of fall revelry, before we head into the holiday season, is Halloween. We’ve always been that family that



goes a little overboard with decorations; not trashy --we keep it classy --but we are quite excessive. My dad’s decoration frenzies are famous for both quantity and quality. He has accumulated a substantial amount of the scary and the more benign Halloween accoutrements over the years, and as he enthusiastically transforms the whole house to orange and black, he always adds a little something new each year. Apart from Christmas, my favorite day of the year is when I come home and find that my dad has put up our pumpkin lights on all of the windows.

I can’t put a finger on the reason behind my excitement, nor can I adequately express the homey feeling it brings me. All I know is that it is during these few weeks that I feel cozier, more magical and more New England-y than usual. I wake up excited to go to school because I know that my weekend will consist of some miscellaneous fall activities. I am happy to leave the cell phone at home and forget, however temporarily, about keeping up with the Tweets for a while. Maybe I’m just very traditional and I nostalgically long for a time without so much technology and the resulting muted social interaction. This season re-acquaints me to the local scene and lets me cast all worldly concerns aside for a while to enjoy the simple pleasures of life.

BABIES AND BRIEFCASES

SLNDERMAN, THE NEXT KIN OF AMERICAN HORROR

Cheryl Hajar

VALLEY PATRIOT MOMMY COLUMNIST

In the recent wake of the two 12 year old girls from Wisconsin who tried to kill their friend to become “proxies” of the fictitious online character Slenderman, we ask ourselves, could this have been stopped? Is the internet to blame? Did the parents of the girls not pay attention to their online activities or where they not actively involved with their lives? Maybe. Or maybe not. It’s hard to tell. To see the future we must look at the past history of American Horror.

Since the advent of motion picture technology, it didn’t take long for 19th century filmmakers to dabble in the horror genre. Believe it or not, at one time both Frankenstein and Dracula, which originated in the early 1900’s, were pretty scary films. Psycho, an American thriller with that shower scene that is etched in horror history, and Godzilla remains timeless. As the years went on and the technology got better, filmmakers and creators of horror characters consistently tried to outdo each other.

The 80s gave birth to some great villains. Who could forget the iconic Michael Meyers, who no matter how many times he was shot or stabbed just wouldn’t die, or Freddie Krueger with that scissor-like hand, just slashed teenagers up when they fell asleep. Or what about Jason from Crystal Lake killing teen couples, and the Scream sequel? All good horror flicks. If any of you follow me on Facebook, you have seen my son dressing up in the Michael Meyers mask and scaring the holy hell out of me around the house. He has fun with it and lets face it, kids like to scare and be scared, for whatever reason I do not know but they do. I can remember as a kid watching Halloween with my Dad and loving every minute of it, and now my son is the same.

So what does Slenderman have in common with all of these timeless horror characters? They all are urban myths just created by a different form of media. That’s it. Back in 2009, a website called Creepypasta posted a contest for an artist

to create a villainous character with a storyline. A man by the name of Eric Knudsen won that competition and since then the Slenderman urban legend has been going strong on websites, videogames and other online forums. One could consider Eric Knudsen an internet screenwriter, or modern day horror creator using a new medium with an old flair. A reinvented wheel.



Most kids today know who Slenderman is but they also know that he is a fictitious character. If you look back in time, certain film characters have actually inspired teenagers and young adults to act out scenes from movies. For example, the movie Scream inspired the killing of a Gina Castillo,

by her own son and his cousin. Child’s Play 3 was another movie that lead to two 10-year-old boys kidnapping and brutally murdering a two-year-old toddler in England. Nightmare on Elm Street was also acted out in 2004 by a Daniel Gonzalez going on a killing spree wearing Freddie’s famous hand knives.

What I see happening is that maybe children cannot differentiate in their minds the difference between real and fake. Murders in horror films are glamorized to some extent. In today’s internet age it is virtually impossible to monitor everything your child is watching but I think sitting your child down and explaining that these characters are fake and not real life is a start. Seeing what your child is watching on their iPad and putting Google searches in “safe” mode is another way of minimizing. When I heard of the Slenderman murders the first thing I did was sit down with my son and discuss it. He knew that the Slenderman story was fake and not a real character contrary to what the girls from Wisconsin believed. Encouraging open discussions with your child to see if they can decipher real from fake is extremely important.

The takeaway here is this. I do not believe that the internet aided in these murders but that this was just another rare case and an extremely unfortunate episode similar to the other mimicking murders from the above mentioned. Do I feel that

HAJJAR: PAGE: 39

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SHEILA’S RECIPE CORNER



SHEILA MULLINS
VALLEY PATRIOT RECIPE COLUMNIST

Fall is in the air. That means it’s apple & apple cider season! Now, what to do with both? I thought a quick & easy snack or appetizer was in order. Crostini. You can’t go wrong with that as a foundation.

Apple & Cheddar Crostini
1 loaf of really good French bread, cut on diagonal in ½”-¾” thick slices
Extra virgin olive oil
Handful of walnuts
Cinnamon
Honey
Cheddar cheese

1 apple, cored & sliced
Preheat oven to 350°F. On a cookie sheet, place the slices of bread in one layer. Bake until toasted to light golden brown, about 5-10 minutes.

Place walnuts in a pie pan & toast until they are just fragrant, about 3-5 minutes. Remove from pan onto cutting board & chop into small pieces. Turn oven off.

In the meantime, slice cheddar (note: it pays to use really good cheddar for this) into ¼” thick slices. Place a slice (or more as needed) on the crostini, place a pinch of cinnamon on top of cheese, add a slice of apple, drizzle some honey, place some walnut pieces on top. Place back into oven for about 1-2 minutes, until cheese melts slightly. Serve immediately. Makes about 30-36 pieces.

As I said above, it’s apple & apple cider season. I decided on a bread based on the general idea of apple cider donuts. Flavour-wise the bread tastes similar to apple cider donuts but it’s definitely a bread. Boy, is it wonderful made into French toast! It’s also quite delicious on its own, for sandwiches, etc. You get the point. It’s pretty quick to make it, the real time is in its resting time to rise.

Apple Cider Bread
3 apples, peeled, cored, & cut into small pieces (I used Granny Smith)
2 c apple cider
¼ c Calvados, optional
7-7.5 c flour
2 T instant yeast
1 t salt
2 eggs, room temperature
2 T butter, room temperature

1 t real vanilla extract
1 t cinnamon, or to taste
¼ c light brown sugar
In a medium saucepan, place the apples & cider. Heat over medium high until mixture comes to a boil then turn temperature down to medium & cook until apples are soft. Remove from heat. Mix in the butter. Pour into a blender or food processor & mix until smooth. Let mixture cool until a thermometer reaches 120-125°F.

Grease thoughly & flour two 8.5 x 4.5 or two 9 x 5 loaf pans.

In a large mixing bowl add all dry ingredients & whisk together. Place bowl on mixer fitted with a bread hook.* Add eggs, vanilla, & calvados, if using. Add liquid mixture to dry ingredients.

Turn mixer on low to start. Mix for 8-10 minutes scraping down bowl as needed. You will have a relatively soft & sticky dough.

Wet your hands. Divide dough in half & shape into loaves. Place in prepared pans. Cover with towel & set in a draft free place & cover with a dishtowel. Let rise until almost double, 1-1.5 hours depending on temperature. Bake in a preheated 375°F oven for about 25-30 minutes until browned & cooked through.

Let bread cool in pan for 5 minutes before turning out on a cooling rack.

*If you don’t have a mixer with a bread hook, you can mix this together manually. Your arms will get a good workout so it’s all good! Just knead bread by hand for about 8-10 minutes.

*If you don’t have a mixer with a bread hook, you can mix this together manually. Your arms will get a good workout so it’s all good! Just knead bread by hand for about 8-10 minutes.

Recipes are created by Sheila Mullins & taste tested by Jerry & Sheila Mullins. Sheila lives in Newburyport & is a personal cook. She can be reached at Sheila_A_Mullins@hotmail.com & she looks forward to hearing from you.



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FROM PAGE 7: SMEDILE

business. She also says that they have passed legislation during an economically depressed period making it even more difficult for first time job seekers to find work.

She says the final straw was when the democratically controlled legislature changed the rules prohibiting budget debate concerning local aid, welfare abuse, and scores of spending sensitive topics. Stifling debate to provide more aid to cities and towns puts pressure on municipal leaders to raise real estate taxes to offset local shortfalls.

“This policy flies in the face of Governor Patrick’s election time promise to lower real estate taxes.”

Smedile says her opponent, Diana DiZoglio voted against proposed local aid increases, against a rollback of the income tax to 5%, and also voted with the Democratic majority to oppose allowing more time (48 hours) for legislators to read the final state budget.

Smedile says these kinds of votes are against the interests and sensibilities of the majority of Massachusetts voters.

Rosemary believes that any perceived need to increase revenues (taxes) can be met many times over by greater transparency at the State House, elimination of corrupt practices, and a halt on wasteful spending which runs in to the hundreds of millions, if not billions, annually. She says she will dedicate herself to that effort if elected on November 4th.

FROM PAGE 7: DIZOGLIO

be stand-alone votes. I voted for rolling back the sales tax. What is sad is that my opponent is trying to manipulate people to believe I am against things when I am for them to suit her political ambitions.

DiZoglio also says she also voted for a “huge” increase in local aid going back to cities and towns.

Then another amendment came before us to increase local aid even more and yes, I voted against that because there was no way to pay for it. We can’t just spend, spend, spend all the time and not have a way to offset those costs.

DiZoglio says she wrote and had passed a bill that legislators called “the Lantigua Bill”. At the time, candidates for state office could not have their names appear on the ballot if they fail to file campaign finance reports or pay fines, yet local officials such as mayor or city council, could refuse to file campaign finance reports or pay fines and still have their names appear on local ballots.

DiZoglio’s bill changed that and now, municipal office seekers are held to the same standard as candidates for state office.

Legislators called it the Lantigua Bill because Willie Lantigua ran for mayor of Lawrence in 2010 with multiple campaign finance violations and ran for reelection last year still refusing to comply with state’s campaign finance laws.

DiZoglio also submitted legislation to put penalties into the state’s public records law when officials refuse to comply with turning over public records.

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TV TALK WITH BILL CUSHING

CBS’ Scorpion is Action Packed, and Lots Of Fun

Bill Cushing
VALLEY PATRIOT TV COLUMNIST



CBS’ new action-packed series, *Scorpion*, about a group of geniuses recruited by US Homeland Security to help them solve various crimes, requires some suspension of disbelief, but is really a lot of fun. The show is loosely based on real life genius Walter O’Brien, played in the show by British actor Elyes Gabel. O’Brien is described on the show as one of the four smartest people in the world, with an IQ of 197.

The series opens with a young Walter being arrested by federal agent Cabe Gallo (Robert Patrick) for hacking into NASA, and is recruited to work for the government rather than go to prison. We next see Walter 20 years later, having started his own company with a team of geniuses, and struggling to make ends meet. The team receives a visit from Agent Gallo, now working for Homeland Security, and is asked to help prevent 56 planes from crashing in Los Angeles.

While fixing the wireless internet connection in a local diner, Walter meets Paige, a waitress, played by former American Idol, Katherine McPhee. She has a son, who the group soon finds out, is just like them and has an instant connection with Walter. The diner would later

become the group’s base of operations for the mission because of its strong wireless connection.

Walter and his team attempt to hack into to the FAA to fix the bugged software that is causing the problem with the airplanes. The episode’s climactic scene features Walter and Paige in a sports car traveling 200 MPH while a jumbo jet flies 10 feet about them as they race down the runway. The scene, while not very believable, is quite intense and well done.

The team, after successfully completing their mission, are offered jobs working for Homeland Security. Walter also extends the invitation to Paige to act as a sort of liaison between the team and society due to their social awkwardness. In this day and age of lots of heavy dramas, it’s nice to have a show that’s a little different. A show with humor, great action sequences, and a likeable cast.

Think of *Scorpion* as *The Big Bang Theory* meets *Die Hard*. It premiered on September 22nd to 13.8 million viewers and looks well on its way to being a success. I definitely recommend that you check it out. *Scorpion* airs Mondays at 9 on CBS.

Do you have any questions about TV? Email me at BillsTVPatTalk@gmail.com. I will answer all of your questions and will feature some of the questions I receive in a future column.

Follow Bill on Twitter @TVNewsandNotes and on Facebook at TVNewsandNotes for daily up-to-the-minute TV news. www.tvnewsandnotes.com

MIND OVER MATTER with JERRY VALLEY

“The Truth ... And Nothing But The Truth ... About Hypnosis”

JERRY VALLEY, MACP
VALLEY PATRIOT HYPNOSIS COLUMNIST

I have been recognized mostly from my shows on stage on cruise ships, TV’s “20/20,” and many Fairs, clubs, colleges, resorts, corporations and more.

However, I assume that many people do not know that I am also an NGH Certified, Consulting Hypnotist having worked with thousands of clients for over 45 years. I am certified by the oldest, largest and most innovative hypnosis educational organization in the world...the National Guild of Hypnotists. I have also been certified by the AAEH, the ACHE and the ISPH. These are accredited hypnosis organizations that have been established for many years.

Now, I would like to answer the most common questions that are usually asked.

Q. Will I be unconscious?

A. No, not at all. You are aware of the proceedings much like daydreaming. Have you ever driven your car down the highway, started to daydream and missed your exit? Well, were you unconscious or asleep while you were driving the car? Of course not. It is a similar feeling.

Q. Will I do crazy things?

A. Maybe not crazy, but sometimes you will do things that you ordinarily would not do. For example, let’s assume you might not sing in public, but under hypnosis, you might just do it.

Q. What is the greatest fear of being hypnotized?

A. The fear of not being in control. That is a fallacy. The hypnotist is a guide or a teacher. When you are in hypnosis, you have the power to stop it at anytime. You remain in control.

Q. Will I tell secrets?

A. Only if you want to tell. An ethical hypnotist would not ask you any personal questions. The fact is that you will not say anything you do not want to say.

Q. Only Weak-minded people make good subjects. Is that right?

A. No. Not at all. First, let me explain that you cannot be hypnotized against your will. It must be voluntary. People from all walks of life experience hypnosis to some level. Some go into it very deeply while others stay in light to medium levels. And, repeated sessions do not make you weak-willed. Actually, hypnosis, with the proper suggestions, can actually strengthen your will power. I have hypnotized some famous athletes, a famous actress and many people that have great will power.

Q. What if I don’t come out of it?

A. That cannot happen and has never happened. If you do not hear the hypnotist’s voice for 5 consecutive minutes, you



will come out of it all by yourself.

Q. Will I only hear the hypnotist’s voice?

A. No. Very often clients in hypnosis can actually hear other sounds but they completely ignore those sounds because they are focused on my voice. They cannot be disturbed.

Q. Will hypnosis work for me?

A. It will work for you if you want it to work for you. When I was featured on TV’s 20/20, John Stossel make a great statement. He said “We interviewed over 400 hypnotists and they all agreed that the hypnotist is just a guide and gives you’re the proper suggestions BUT you must have the desire for the suggestions to work.

John Stossel was right. Hypnosis works this way: The hypnotist gives you the suggestions but you must have the sincere desire for the suggestion to work. The hypnotist is a guide and you simply allow the hypnotists to take you through a most relaxation imagery like being at a beautiful lake or at the seashore. It could be any image that you enjoy and one which relaxes you enough to allow your subconscious mind to accept and follow the suggestions. Perhaps you might like to visualize yourself on the beach or at a beautiful lake etc.

Gerald Kein, a very fine hypnotist in Florida and is associate of mine, has sent in the following information:

Patients “Eavesdrop” on Surgeons
The greater use of narcotics and muscle relaxants, with the consequent lightening of anesthetics to induce unconsciousness, seems to be increasing the number of surgical “awareness episodes” say a number of psychologists and anesthesiologists. Taken together, these reports suggest that even though patients may have no conscious recall, they can actually hear operating room conversations while they are “asleep” and can incorporate such in-

JERRY VALLEY: PAGE 35

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Your Health Matters and Elections Affect Your Health

Dr. Frank MacMillan, MD
VALLEY PATRIOT MEDICAL COLUMNIST

Over the past several months, I have tried to bring to the Valley Patriot readers a mix of what's new in medicine, and what is happening in the world of health-care from the perspectives of patient access, business and politics. Since this edition of the Valley Patriot is focusing on the upcoming local, state, and national November elections, I am going to veer off my usual topics and take the risk of challenging the way you may be thinking about your vote and how it may relate to your health.

Politics is a process whereby we decide, as a community, simply what our priorities are. In the political process, for an idea to make it from a concept to actual legislation and be passed into law, there are many levels along the way where those with influence and power can mold and shape that idea. The priority can be simple or complex, but in a democracy, it is always best for all sides to be heard before a decision is made. For the best outcome, and even though one side may have numerical superiority, the process should include consideration of minority viewpoints in an effort to achieve consensus, so that there is a shared stake in the consequences.

The Affordable Care Act of 2010, also known as "Obamacare," is a great example of the result of consensus abandoned. What was supposed to be healthcare reform ultimately morphed into a monstrosity complex and poorly vetted piece of legislation designed by a small elite in the Senate coached by self-interested industry insiders. The work product that was passed under special rules forced the House of Representatives to vote up or down, offer no amendments, or get nothing at all. Vote buying, special deals, corruption of any concept of equality before the law was on full display in this shameless affront to the democratic process. So, the bill that neither Republicans nor liberal Democrats really wanted got passed by both chambers, was signed into law by our President, and once the actual implementation and Healthcare.gov website crashed, there was practically no one other than the President himself who wanted to own it or take any political risk to fix it. I think the lesson here is that leadership matters, elections matter, and if you care about your access to healthcare and everything else that politics prioritizes, then you must think about how you vote in a way that is strategic.

Unlike many countries with multiple



viable political parties, in the United States, we have a binary (two party) political system. Within each political party, there are subgroups that vie for influence. This is true of both Republican and Democrat parties. Party primaries, conventions, and grass roots organizing are where parties work out their differences and arrive at consensus. Parties do change over time and evolve, and history is full of examples where the old consensus changes.

In Massachusetts, I would argue that our one party state government has undermined the political process on both sides. Clearly the Republicans are disadvantaged by being in the minority, but the Democrats who are not in the leadership are also marginalized as well. You may have noticed the mainstream press reporting how the state house was only in session a small number of days last year. The main reason for this is that they do not have that much to do. The leadership determines what gets voted on, and determines what the rules are, and whether there will be debate or amendments allowed. A lopsided majority in the legislature empowers the State House and Senate leadership, and actually disenfranchises the regular members of both parties. It also leads to little input from the rank and file, and we all lose when political topics are decided without all sides having been heard.

So my challenge on the eve of what I believe will be a consequential election, is to get out and vote, and use your vote strategically to rebalance a broken system. Whether local, state or national, support the candidate who brings balance to the process. Support the grown up. You will never get a candidate with whom you agree with on every issue, or all the time. Work on your ideal candidate at the grass roots, and at the convention and primary the next time around. What we have to choose from now is what's here on the ballot today. It's a binary choice, and a

DOCTOR: PAGE 39

How to Choose an Employment Attorney

Attorney Timothy F. Stark, Esq.
VALLEY PATRIOT LEGAL COLUMNIST

If you're an employee who has recently been terminated, or an employer who has just received a demand letter from an attorney who represents a disgruntled former employee, you are in a position where you need competent legal representation in the area of employment law. What is the most effective and efficient method of locating the attorney? In my opinion, the first choice should always be (assuming of course that you have an attorney who you have worked with in the past and trust him or her) to seek the advice of that attorney. It is possible that the attorney would know, or have heard of, the best employment attorney in the area, and could facilitate the appointment. They also may be able to provide advice as to whether you should use a local attorney or travel into Boston. In addition, they may be able to provide some information on fees and give feedback after the initial meeting with the employment attorney.

If, however, you don't have an existing relationship with an attorney that you feel you can trust, or your attorney doesn't have a reference for you, a second option is asking friends if they have any suggestions. It can be very helpful, when making your choice, if you are able to talk with someone who has used that particular attorney so that you can get some first hand knowledge as to the competence of the attorney.

A third method, and perhaps the most common, is to use either the internet or the yellow pages and focus your search on attorneys who specialize in employment law. If an attorney's ad lists employment law first, or at least second, in the areas that they provide services in, then you are probably identifying someone who at least understands the commitment necessary to provide legal services in employment law. My advice is to stay away from people who list employment law among a long list of other services they offer since it is doubtful, at least in my opinion, that they would have the experience or knowledge to provide adequate representation in an area as complex as employment law. The search should use the word "employment" as opposed to "labor" since the latter term generally refers to union arbitration issues and not employment law.

A fourth method of finding an em-



ployment lawyer is to call either the "Massachusetts Bar Association" or the "Boston Bar Association" as both of these associations provide referral services.

When you make the initial call you should ask the attorney or the assistant what the initial consultation fee is, since most experienced employment attorneys do not do free consultations like personal injury or divorce attorneys do. Also, don't hesitate to ask as to the experience of the attorney and how much of the practice is devoted to employment law. It can also be helpful to have prepared a brief description of your situation, but also recognize that time may be limited and it will be unlikely that the full consultation would be done on the phone. At the time of the consultation it is very helpful for the client to have a brief outline of the facts, but this is not usually required. Also bring in any documents that might be relevant so that the attorney can review them, and be prepared to ask the attorney questions as to options, strategies, costs, likelihood of success, and if successful an informed "estimate" of possible damage awards. Another question that should always be asked is the likely length of time involved in any of the options discussed.

Finally, it is often advisable not to make any decisions concerning your options at that time, but leave the office and make your decision in a reasonable period of time after the meeting.

Hopefully, some of these tips will be useful when choosing an employment attorney, and remember that the only person who has legal rights is the person who knows what their legal rights are.

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JERRY VALLEY: FROM PAGE 33

formation unconsciously into their behavior and attitudes toward recovery.

We have worked with people going in for surgery so we have conferred with many doctors. Doctors have learned that even when a person is under anesthesia, the subconscious may still be listening so they need to be careful about what is said. As an example, many years ago, Harry Arons, one of the pioneers of hypnosis was called into a hospital to help a male patient who could not walk after his operation which I recall as being on his leg or spine.

Therefore, the following information is really true. Harry Arons discovered, in interviews with the nurses, that a doctor made this remark while the patient was sedated. "If he ever walks again, it will be a miracle." Harry realized that that suggestion locked into the patient's subconscious mind and therefore he had a psychological paralysis.....not a physical one. But it was so strong that it became a physical problem until Harry Arons hypnotized him out of it and the man did walk!

As you can surmise, the subconscious mind is always aware and controls everything that we feel and do. Today, doctors and nurse in the operating rooms are very careful of their remarks so that the patient will not pick up and negative remarks or statements.

Our subconscious mind works 24/7 and never sleeps. The conscious mind goes to sleep and we are unconscious until we awaken each morning. The subconscious mind keeps our hearts beating, our lungs breathing, our kidneys working and every muscle, every nerve, every function in our bodies are under the control of this most powerful mind.

We have learned that many of our problems are not conscious problems but are emotional attachments in our subconscious minds. That is why hypnosis is so effective because we, hypnotists, work with the subconscious.....and in most cases IT WORKS.



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NOTEBOOK: FROM 15

money to campaign that chance seems like it will, once again, be squandered. Some have questioned whether or not DiNuccio is even a serious candidate. Political analysts of DiNuccio’s previous races show that if he had simply spent a little more money he could have won at least one of his previous campaigns. You know what they say about doing the same thing over and over expecting a different result?

STATE REP- JIM MICELLI vs. DOUG SEARS

Jim Micelli is a conservative to moderate State Rep. whom critics say votes lock step with the house leadership on most important votes. Micelli is a Democrat. His opponent, Doug Sears, is a conservative Republican who says that Beacon Hill needs not only new blood, but more Republicans to stop vetoes and hold the Democratic Party more accountable. Sears has criticized Micelli for not bringing in enough money in local aid and voting against an increase to local aid for cities and towns.

STATE AUDITOR
BUMP vs. ST. AUBIN

Not much is known about Patricia St. Aubin. She has almost no money to campaign and has been largely missing on the campaign trail. Incumbent Suzanne Bump is well funded, but is not exactly a darling of the Democratic Party after exposing millions of dollars in fraud under the Deval Patrick administration in the Welfare Department, the Department of Children and Families and several other state agencies under Democrat control. Governor Patrick attacked Bump’s audits claiming they were wrong but eventually had to admit that Bump’s audits were accurate when Bump did more audits proving massive waste, fraud and mismanagement in state government.

BALLOT QUESTIONS:
QUESTION #1: A YES vote on Question #1 would repeal the legislature’s cowardly move to index the gas tax to inflation, so says pro tax and spend advocates. But if you read our editorial on page 2, you will find that the gas tax is not actually indexed to inflation for if inflation goes down your gas taxes will not go down. A NO vote will leave the legislature’s vote in place and gas taxes will go up every single year forever without the legislature ever having to take another vote or be held accountable for raising taxes each year.

QUESTION #2 BOTTLE BILL.
A Yes vote on question #2 would expand the tax on beverages sold in bottles. Currently the bottle bill requires a five cent deposit on soda and certain other beverages but not for bottled water, juice and sports drinks. A NO vote will leave the bottle bill the way that it is. Proponents of the expanded bottle bill say it will help the environment and give the legislature millions more to spend on social programs in Massachusetts. Opponents of Question #2 say that the bottle bill is just another deception by Beacon Hill politicians to create a slush fund that they can raid as they did when they raised the cigarette tax promising to put the money aside for people with emphysema, only to transfer the money to the general fund less than a year later.

QUESTION #3 CASINOS
A YES Vote on Question #3 would stop casino gambling in Massachusetts. A NO vote will allow casinos. Those championing a Vote YES on #3 say that casinos will not bring needed jobs and will hurt poor people. Those who are advocating to vote NO on Question #3 say that not only will casinos being needed jobs and revenue to the state, but will stop Massachusetts residents from taking their gambling dollars out of state to Foxwoods and allow them to spend it in MA where taxes will bring much needed revenues to cities and towns.

QUESTION #4 Mandatory Sick Time for employees.

Question #4 is somewhat confusing. A YES vote would force employers to offer paid sick time to certain employees but not others. A NO vote will leave the sick time law the same.

ATTORNEY GENERAL - JOHN MILLER vs. MAURA HEALEY
When Maura Healey challenged the ultimate insider, gun grabber and Rush Limbaugh antagonist, Warren Tolman, most expected Tolman to run away with the nomination. But Tolman’s bizarre position to mandate “smart guns” in Massachusetts and a series of missteps resulted in Healey not only defeating him on primary day last month, she was the top vote getter of any statewide office seeker.

Now she must face Republican John Miller, whom most believe has very little chance of defeating an open lesbian who is a prosecutor for the Attorney General’s Office.

Republican John Miller is an attorney and a former prosecutor who says he wants to take the politics out of the Attorney General’s office. But with almost no money to campaign and no name recognition, it will be an uphill battle to defeat the woman who garnered more votes than any other statewide candidate in the primary. Conventional wisdom says Miller has almost no shot in this race.

SECRETARY OF STATE - GALVIN vs. D’ARCHANGELO - Secretary of State Bill Galvin has been in office so long, many voters were not even born when Galvin took office more than 25 years ago. He has never had a close race and never had a tough candidate challenging him. This year he is being challenged by David D’Archangelo, who is calling Galvin to task for refusing to turn over public records while his job is to prosecute those who do just that. Galvin has not even prosecuted any public official for concealing public records, and has opposed measures to ensure a secret ballot for members of the military. D’Archangelo says that having a Secretary of State who practices what he preaches is vital for transparency in state government. What’s more, Galvin has been a staunch ally of former Lawrence Mayor Willie Lantigua, refused to prosecute him for election fraud, forgeries on Lantigua’s nomination papers four elections in a row, and was the one state official Lantigua campaigned the hardest for in previous elections.

The bad news is that D’Archangelo has no funding, while Galvin has so much money in the bank he could start a small country. D’Archangelo is a long shot but is still campaigning very hard to expose

the shenanigans of the Secretary of State, appearing on radio and TV shows and challenging Galvin to debates ... debates that Galvin refuses participate in.

If you want a secretary of state who denies members of the military the right to a secret ballot and is in the pocket of former Lawrence Mayor Willie Lantigua, Galvin is surely your man. If you are interested in a Secretary of State who will open up the books and force government transparency, then D’Archangelo is your candidate.

* COFFEE CANN FAMILY - A TRADITION OF RESPECT - Frank Cann, President of F.H. Cann and Associates of North Andover proudly announces F. H. Cann and Associates participation in ARMing Heroes, the collection industry’s charity for military veterans. Today the organization announced that a handful of accounts receivable management companies have already pledged or donated amounts totaling nearly \$20,000 in just the first few days of the organization’s fifth annual No Debts for Vets Charity Fundraising Drive, which runs from September 11th through Veterans Day, November 11th, every year.

Last year’s fund drive generated more than \$50,000 in donations, the largest amount of funds raised since the organization’s inception in 2009. As a result, dozens of grants were awarded to struggling military vets and their families, most of which were disbursed to the creditors of grant recipients at the end of the year, just in time for the holidays. Typical grant awards averaged \$1000 to \$2000, with the largest grant in the amount of \$5000.

ARMing Heroes was founded and began operating in March, 2009. The organization’s mission is to serve the needs of U.S. military veterans, including their spouse and children. ARMing Heroes fills a charitable niche by linking people identified with employment, credit, and financial counseling needs with the accounts receivable management industry, an industry uniquely poised to help in these areas. Persons interested in volunteering their time and others interested in applying for benefits or pledging other forms of support are encouraged to contact the organization at www.armingheroes.org.

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* LOWELL - COMEDY FUNDRAISER FOR RARA - Important Comedy Night Fundraiser on Oct. 17th at the Princeton Crossing in Lowell at 6:30pm.

* FLEA MARKET on October 25th at The Trinitarian Congregational Church located at 72 Elm Street, North Andover. Raffle, Bakery, Jewelry tables & White Elephant area. DEALERS WANTED. Contact Sarah @ 978-886-2191. Proceeds to go to Building & Maintenance Fund.

PRIDESTAR DONATION - PrideSTAR EMS makes a generous donation to a local organization in attempts to continue its mission to save lives. PrideSTAR EMS, is a premiere medical transportation company in the Merrimack Valley and Southern New Hampshire having 4 locations and an enduring reputation for excellence and compassion. David Daly, PrideSTAR CEO said, “we are very excited to contribute to causes which enhance the lives of vulnerable people across the globe.” Community Christian Fellowship (CCF), the recipient of the donation, is an international ministry with sites in Africa, the Middle East and the Caribbean. CCF was founded in 1982 in Lowell, MA. The organization has track records of aiding programs internationally which work to assist the neediest of society. Since its inception, CCF developed ties in the community with a plethora of organizations who lend assistance to the poor. As of January of this year, CCF has been present in Lawrence. Bishop David Karaya, CCF Missions Overseer said “Our global mission’s initiative will remain successful as always, when driven by purpose and values of what we do. We have challenges but it is a fact that they are exceeded by the existing opportunities such as PrideSTAR is offering. Therefore, we rise up to the reality of the opportunities existing around us in order to achieve our mission both locally and abroad.” This donation will go to their Caribbean missions who care for the sick and needy in deprived areas. David Daly will be donating the ambulance to CCF on Wednesday, August 27 @ 10am at their Lawrence base, 425 Merrimack Street across from River Walk complex. To learn more about Community Christian Fellowship, call 978-934-9414 or visit <http://www.ccfcca.com/>. To learn more about PrideSTAR EMS Inc. call 978-685-0911 or visit <http://pridestars-ems.com/>.

* FCC TENTATIVELY SELECTS WHAV TO RECEIVE FM LICENSE - The Federal Communications Commission late Friday afternoon tentatively selected WHAV to receive an FM license.

Public Media of New England, Inc., parent of WHAV, is seeking to broadcast at 98.1 FM, while a competitor seeks an adjacent frequency. Both received the same number of qualification points under FCC rules. The selection means both groups must share airtime, but provides a month for legal challenges.

“WHAV plans to challenge the application by St. Patrick Parish Lawrence Educational Radio Association on grounds the Catholic group does not qualify for all of the technical points it claims,” said Tim Coco, WHAV president and general manager. “WHAV is proposing a minimum of 56 hours per week of locally originated programs, while St. Patrick’s has listed 100 percent of its programming as originating with Irondale, Alabama-based Global Catholic Radio Network,” he added.

The FCC’s ranking system grants bonus points to applicants proposing local programs. In addition, St. Patrick’s filed its application for Articles of Organization with Massachusetts’ Secretary of the Commonwealth on Nov. 12, 2013. The incorporation articles as submitted to the FCC had not yet been approved by the Commonwealth. The secretary of the Commonwealth approved WHAV’s Articles of Organization

BOTTOM OF NEXT PAGE

STOP

AUTOMATIC GAS TAX HIKES

Vote YES on Question 1

After collecting over 146,000 taxpayer signatures we are finally going to be on the November ballot so we can stop the worst tax ever in the history of the Commonwealth!

The Governor and the Legislature have linked the gas tax to inflation which means this tax will automatically increase every year without a vote of the legislature!

If this form of **automatic taxation** is allowed to stand, then the tax-and-spend liberals at the State House will link other taxes such as property and income taxes to inflation.

Your support, financial and otherwise, will help at many levels. Visit us at www.tankthegastax.org to donate and learn how you can join in the fight.

And please remember – Vote YES on Question 1.

Paid for by the Committee to Tank the Automatic Gas Tax Hikes. Jamie Kang, Treasurer.
154 Worcester St, Watertown, MA 02472

An Open Letter to Charlie Baker

Dear Charlie:

This could have been a contribution to your campaign fund, but instead I must tell you my misgivings about your candidacy. You appear to be under the impression that the best way to beat the Democrats is to become more like them.

The last straw was your position on illegal immigrants. That you could possibly take a position that will certainly encourage more of them to invade our country is beyond comprehension. You seem to have no concern about the immense financial burden this illegal flood imposes upon our own citizens, who are already overburdened by taxes and regulations.

If you do not have the common sense to understand something this simple, then it is most doubtful that you will be able to substantially address the graft and corruption that pervades both the Legislature and administration of this state. That is going to take bold leadership, the signs of which I do not see so far.

Horror stories abound about EBT cards and the largess of the public treasury for the benefit of the professional gold diggers who live only to milk the system. Why don't you focus on these aspects that overburden the working people of Massachusetts? That would be a sure winner. Instead, you support more gun control legislation, when we can't even enforce the gun laws we now have. You want to increase the minimum wage to freeze out unskilled and first time job workers when we are not yet out of the longest recession in our history, and you are deafeningly quiet about a federal Common Core curriculum that will decrease the educational competency of Bay State students.

Unless something changes pretty quickly, I will be remaining home on Election Day. Unfortunately, a Ronald Reagan you are not. I wish you were. Reagan was a Democrat once, but saw the light.

Sincerely,
Ralph Wilbur

NOTEBOOK FROM PREV. PAGE

April 11, 2011. The FCC highly weights the incorporation dates. According to the FCC, "applicant(s) may claim an established local presence if this Local Eligibility has existed for at least two years prior to its application." The 2013 incorporation papers contradict St. Patrick Parish Lawrence Educational Radio Association's cited date of Jan. 1, 1950 as qualifying as local.

Although the FCC does not rank the abilities of this class of FM stations to serve their cities of license, the proposed Haverhill tower of St. Patrick Parish Lawrence Educational Radio Association will result in a signal barely listenable in Lawrence, the applicant's claimed city of license.

David J. Doherty of Skywaves Consulting Inc., Millbury, provides engineering services for WHAV, while Howard M. Liberman and Lee G. Petro of Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP, Washington, provides legal representation.

* JAN'S PITCH FOR BREAST CANCER - Newbury, MA: On Saturday October 18, the Essex Baseball Organization will host the 2nd annual Jan's Pitch for Breast Cancer and The Arts – a day of vintage baseball, great food, drink, and more at Spencer Peirce Little Farm in Newbury, MA. The event honors Janice Sheehy, who lost her two-and-a-half year battle with breast cancer in 2013. Sheehy was a talented and dedicated art teacher in the Lawrence, MA school system - and mother to Brian Sheehy, president of the Essex Baseball Organization, and Chris Sheehy, captain of the Lowell Baseball Club.

Proceeds from Jan's Pitch will be split between breast cancer research, and The Janice Sheehy Art Fund, established to provide students of the Arlington School in Lawrence, MA the materials to host their own art fair. Last year the event raised over \$6,000 and this year we are looking to exceed that number.

The day will include a triple-header of vintage baseball games beginning at 10am, featuring players from teams based in Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire and Connecticut. Vintage baseball is played according to the game's original 19th-century rules – with wooden bats, authentic 'lemon peel' baseballs, and no gloves. During and after the games visitors can sample food from local eateries, enjoy delicious beers from the Ipswich Ale 'Tap Truck,' and much more. For more information contact Brian Sheehy at 978.790.5707, or via email athistoryball@yahoo.com, no

*HAVERHILL - NEW MOON COFFEE HOUSE - An Evening with Jon Pousette-Dart. Saturday October 18th, 8pm.

UU Church located at 16 Ashland St.,

Haverhill, MA 01830. Tickets: \$20, kids 18 and under \$10. Purchase tickets at the door starting at 6:30pm. Cash only. Visit www.newmooncoffeehouses.org for reservation options.

*LAWRENCE CHESS CLUB - The Lawrence Chess Club will meet on Thursday, 16th Oct. 2014 from 6:30-8pm at the Lawrence Public Library, corner of Haverhill & Lawrence streets. This is always a FREE event, held the third Thursday each month. Please bring a friend and a chess set. ALL ages and abilities welcome. Play, learn and help teach. They can teach anyone to play in about 20 minutes, but it requires a lifetime to master. English is not required.

* GIRLS' FALL BASKETBALL IN MERRIMACK VALLEY - Methuen, MA – October 2014. Off-Season Hoops, Inc. is the sponsor of a Girls' Fall Basketball League featuring eight local area high school teams. The Merrimack Valley Girls' High School Fall Basketball League provides area girls' programs with a local, competitive league as they prepare for the upcoming winter season.

Andover, Billerica, Central Catholic, Chelmsford, Lawrence, Methuen, North Andover, and Whittier Tech are competing against each other for ten weeks through mid November. All games are played on Sunday afternoons at Presentation of Mary Academy in Methuen, MA.

In October, the weekly educational themes are:

October 12th – Concussions, Head and Mouth Injuries

October 19th – Diabetes and Heart Wellness

October 26th – Cancer Awareness

Every Sunday, players and fans have access to information in the gym lobby specific to the weekly theme. According to a 2013 NCAA statistic, less than 4% of High School Girl Student Athletes will play basketball at the collegiate level. Knowing that fact, the MVGHS Fall Basketball League is committed to providing more than just an opportunity to play basketball each week.

Each participating team in the league partnered with a local community business to sponsor their school and support the overall goals of the league. Off-Season Hoops, Inc. also partnered with Action Ambulance to help make the league's inaugural season a success.

Off-Season Hoops, Inc. is a registered Non-Profit organization that provides Student Athletes the opportunity to develop their full potential by participating in community based educational and sports related programs. For more information about this

Common Core Information Session In Newburyport

Joe D'Amore
VALLEY PATRIOT GROVELAND COLUMNIST

On September 23rd, the North East GOP sponsored a non-partisan, informational event about Common Core and invited a panel of the Common Core Forum consisting of Dean Cavaretta - Common Core Forum Representative; Laina Simone - Parent, PARCC Presenter; Dr. Sandra Stotsky - former Common Core Validation Committee Member; and David McGeney - Peabody School Committee.

Each speaker provided a well attend audience at the Newburyport Elks on Low street with information about an initiative underway in Massachusetts to fundamentally change how children are taught and tested in public school.

If fully adopted in communities and school districts throughout the Commonwealth, the MCAS assessment (test) will be replaced by a new assessment known as PARCC (Partnership of Readiness for College and Careers).

The concerns of proponents of the Common Core Forum initiative - who are against adoption of Common Core standards - believe that school committees and local communities should retain the ability to set curriculum standards rather than replace policy making with a "top down" approach espoused by Common Core. Currently, curriculum standards in Massachusetts are considered by many measures to be the highest in the country, and are framed by curriculum standards that can be integrated into school systems

known as the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. The "frameworks" driven curricula produces the content for children to prepare for and pass the MCAS exams .

Additionally, there are concerns that the Common Core initiative is a veiled "federal take-over" of education and that implementation standards is extremely intrusive into privacy with the stringent personal data collection required to implement.

Parents who oppose the new standard cite many concerns including a significant increase in number of tests for children, "teaching to the test" forced upon teachers, and the inability of parents to support their children with methods of learning reading and mathematics familiar to them .Supporters of Common Core cite numerous reasons for adoption including bringing standards to bear so that all children have the ability to be successful and teachers are held accountable to performance standards that are identifiable, measurable, and directly linked to student achievement.

Even though the Common Core Forum is essentially considered a politically conservative group and that the Northeast Essex GOP - a consortium of Essex County Republican Town Committees - sponsored the event, organizers ensured that the message was non-partisan.

The range and volume of questions from the audience and the continued discussion afterwards by attendees and well-prepared presenters made this a worthwhile event for all who attended.

Fall Basketball League and other Off-Season Hoops, Inc. initiatives, visit www.offseasonhoops.org. You can also follow the League on Facebook (MVGHSFallBall) and Twitter (@mvghsfallball).

Contact: Patrick Costello, 855.445.3514
Email: patrickjcostello@offseasonhoops.org. Email: mvghsfallball@gmail.com

*SCAVENGER HUNT TO BENEFIT THE BUTTONWOODS MUSEUM

You are cordially invited to take part in our Annual Haverhill History Mystery.

TEAM: Your party of 4 - 8 people will be given clues to solve as you waltz your way around town. We'll take a not-so-solemn vow that you'll have fun! So ring the in-laws, seat your neighbors, and engage your friends. Register early to assure your team's reservation. An extra point clue will be given to your team upon payment - the sooner you pay, the sooner you get your clue! DATE: Saturday, November 1, 2014

TIME and PLACE: The receiving line begins at the Lower Level of the Merrimack Street Parking deck promptly at 5pm. Ceremonial Departure is at 6pm (Note: earlier start time). COST: \$45.00 per person or ** Save \$5 per person - \$40 if paid by Oct. 18** Checks payable to: BUTTONWOODS MUSEUM. TO RSVP: Please bring payment to any EZ-Way Cleaners location, or mail a check with the names of your team to: Peter Carbone, 48 Colby St., Bradford, MA 01835.

LEADING WOMEN'S HEALTH GROUP ENDORSES RICHARD TISEI

The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) announced its endorsement of Richard Tisei for Congress today, citing his history of supporting women's health and rights.

"Richard Tisei will be a strong advocate for women in Congress and will work tirelessly to ensure women have access to quality healthcare and reproductive health services," Ob-Gyn PAC Chair James Breeden, MD, FACOG said. "We endorse Richard Tisei because he will fight for women's rights and also fight to end gridlock in

Washington, which hurts all citizens."

"I am honored to have ACOG's support and proud they have recognized my lifetime advocacy for women's issues and rights," Tisei said. "In Congress I will fight tirelessly to ensure women have access to the healthcare they need, without interference from unnecessary bureaucratic red tape."

ACOG also praised Tisei for his advocacy against the Independent Payment Advisory Board, a group of unelected bureaucrats who will decide healthcare reimbursements rates based on statistics, not doctor's orders.

"Richard Tisei will fight to keep medical decisions between a woman and her doctor, not between a woman and an unelected bureaucrat in Washington," Breeden said. "Repealing IPAB is a bipartisan cause, and we support Tisei's efforts to undue this misguided policy."

Finally, ACOG recognized Tisei's commitment to important social safety net programs like Medicare and Medicaid, two vitally important programs for women.

"Richard Tisei has always been a supporter of a strong social safety net, and he will be a strong voice on Capitol Hill for preserving and protecting Medicare and Medicaid," Breeden said.

* AMESBURY - WHITTIER HOME OCTOBER DINNER MEETING. Thursday October 16th from 4-6pm at Whittier Home - 86 Friend St. in Amesbury. Delicious dinner, desserts and good company! Brief Business meeting followed by a short program by Whittier Scholar, Gus Reusch. This event is free to members – a non-member donation of \$10 is requested. Please call 978-388-1337 no later than Monday October 13th for reservations.



Tom Duggan is the publisher of The Valley Patriot, a former Lawrence School Committeeman, and hosts the Paying Attention! Radio Program on WCAP, 980AM, every Saturday from 10am-noon. You can email your comments to valleypatriot@aol.com .

BRITANY BALDI: PART III

What to Do and Not Do at an Audition: And Yes, Brittany is Still Single!

This is Part III of our interview with movie star and model Brittany Baldi of Methuen. This month we asked Brittany to give us some advice for younger people looking to get into show business and touched a little on her personal life.

VP: What do you think is the most important advice you can give to young people just starting out in the audition process?

BB: It's all about networking. Use your social media responsibly if you are going to start going on auditions.

I've gotten so many jobs just from my Facebook page because it reflects who I really am and I don't post things that I don't want a producer or a potential agent to see.

Kids need to understand that you shouldn't put photos online of you drinking at a keg party or doing anything you don't want future employers to see. That's not just good advice for show business, but for any job. Young people today need to understand that everything you post online is going to come back to haunt you. In show business, one of the very first things they do when they are considering you is to look at your social media pages. So, keep your online image clean is my best advice as far as that goes.

But also, don't be fake, don't post things online claiming you are doing things you're really not doing. They are going to find out and see you as a fake or a liar. Like, if you are on Facebook bragging about auditioning for a part you really didn't audition for, that's going to hurt you. They are going to find out because everyone in this business talks to each other, and everyone checks up on what you claim you have done. Social media is great for networking in this business, but it can hurt you and you don't want that.

Networking is huge. As soon as we sat down for this interview, we exchanged information and started talking about mutual friends or people that we know. In show business it's all about who you know and networking with as many people as you can. Word of mouth is huge. If people like you, they will recommend you for jobs; they will say 'hey I know this girl from an audition, she would be great for your movie or your video' and then you get a call out of the blue.

VP: What else should young people starting out try to avoid?

Some of the pitfalls in this business, especially at auditions and castings, never be late. Always be on time and maybe even a little early. Also, don't dress like you are running to the store. Always look your best and be fit and healthy. This industry is all about looking good to sell a product or a company. You don't have to be a 10 or a 9 as far as looks go; you just have to look good, have nice teeth, nice hair, and a good personality to match it. Those things are easy and you'd be surprised how many people get that wrong.

AND YES SHE'S STILL SINGLE

VP: So, I hear you are still single?

BB: I haven't had a steady boyfriend for three years. I've dated people off and on but it never goes anywhere because I'm the kind of person who needs to be with someone at my level or better, because I need that companionship in what I am doing in life.

They need to be success driven, goal oriented and family oriented. If not, I am just going to feel like I am being dragged down. With my ex, I had to hold his hand and tell him to pay his bills and all that. I don't want someone like that. I need someone who is going to be like I am when it comes to being motivated, someone driven like I am.



FROM PAGE 30: ISRAEL



being a "Light on to the Nations" a very serious, often unpleasant and very difficult job. We believe in freedom – freedom of speech, freedom of expression, freedom of religion. A people that has known oppression, we consider it our duty to provide freedom. As custodians of the Holy Land, a land denied us for many years at different times throughout history, we consider it our duty to provide protection to all holy sites and free access to all those who want to worship at those sites.

Our beliefs and ideals are being used against us. Moreover, they are being used against us by people who believe that freedom is an invitation to evil and that the only correct way is submission to the will of Allah.

To them there is only one right way however they have no qualms about using OUR beliefs in order to get their way. The religious battle being waged on the Basilica of the Annunciation is just one example of this. Freedom of religion says it's ok to have to places of worship, side by side. Freedom of expression says that signs, no matter how provocative (read obnoxious) their content, are allowed. Freedoms provided in our democratic society are being leveraged to encroach on those freedoms and, ultimately, take them away.

As a Jew I have to care about this. As a person who believes in freedom and desires

to live in a free world, I have to care about this.

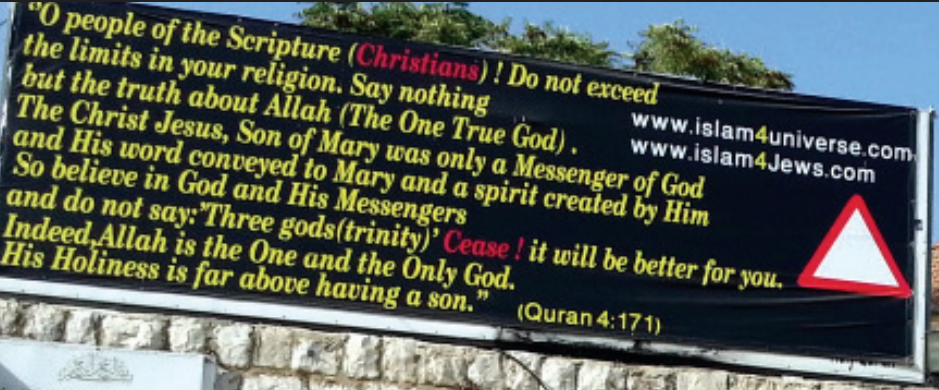
Slowly the entire western world is allowing our freedom to slip away – and all under the guise of providing freedom. How ironic.

Now, while writing this article, I decided to look through my archives to find the picture I took outside the Basilica of the Annunciation in 2011. I know there have been signs there for years now and wanted to see how they have changed since the last picture I took. What I saw amazed me.

Do you think the Islamic State is a new organization? Do you IS and their ideology is confined to Syria, Iraq and a few "lone wolves" scattered around the world?

Remember this image is from 2011! The sign here is brown and white, not black and white (perhaps it faded in the sun) but the writing is very clear, even to those who do not read Arabic. In the English sign above you can again see the IS flag and the symbol of the hand holding up one finger in the air, signifying the one God, Allah – the same pose you see over and over with IS fighters.

These symbols are now illegal to display in Israel. The fact that the current signs do not sport IS symbols does not mean the ideology is gone. Nazareth is one of the places in Israel that is known to have IS supporters and it is not the only one...



I hope that the western world will recognize the danger before it is too late. The Basilica of the Annunciation is just one example.

Our freedoms are slipping away. We are allowing them to be taken away. Pretending that the Islamic State isn't Islamic will not solve the problem. Pretending that bombing some terrorists in Iraq or Syria will eliminate the danger is a very dangerous tactic. It is the ideology that is the problem, not the individuals committing acts of terrorism. Creeping Sharia is a tactic being used against every western country.

Freedom of speech is being used to take away our freedom of religion.

This is not the problem of one country; it is the problem of all countries. This is not the problem of one nation or religion. This

is the problem of every individual who wants to live in the free world.

It has to be stopped or we will ALL be silenced.

Forest Rain was born in Detroit and 'made aliyah', immigrated with her family to Israel at the age of thirteen. She served in the IDF (service is obligatory for all Israeli citizens). Forest is a Marketing Communications expert – writing for hi-tech companies for a living and Israel for the soul. Connect with Forest Rain, Writings from Israel: <http://forestrain.wordpress.com>, Twitter: [@frisrael](https://twitter.com/frisrael), Email: lionheart.e@gmail.com



HAJJAR: FROM PAGE 31

it is important to monitor what your kids are watching, of course I do, but I feel that it is actually more important to make sure they have a clear understanding between fictitious and real life. How do we stop the creators of these characters from marketing to our kids? We can't. It would be virtually impossible to do that but maybe one suggestion would be to put warning labels on the websites or video games that these are fictitious stories and characters, made for entertainment purposes only. The question is, would they be willing to do that or more importantly, would it even matter?

Talk to your children, know whets going on. Be coherent in their lives and know what they are watching and are focused on but more importantly keep those lines of communication open. You never know when that one conversation could prevent another tragedy.

DOCTOR: FROM PAGE 34

protest vote for a third party candidate may be your right, but it is not strategic. Healthcare policy at the state and national levels needs your attention, and there has been a lot of mischief resulting from one party rule. Be thoughtful, be strategic, and get out there on Tuesday November 4th and vote!

Frank MacMillan, Jr, MD, FACG specializes in Gastroenterology and Liver disease. He is President of the Massachusetts Gastroenterology Association, a Fellow of the American College of Gastroenterology and it's Massachusetts Governor. Dr MacMillan is a native of North Andover and practices Gastroenterology at Holy Family Hospital. He has also been a member of the North Andover Board of Health since 2007.

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UML hockey & basketball, BC football, Spinners Baseball, and high school sports.

SATURDAYS: it's Warren Shaw, 6-10A, "Paying Attention w/Tom Duggan," 10A-noon (hear it on WCAP, read it in *The Valley Patriot*), "Money Pit", home improvement, noon-1P, & "The Car Doctor" 1P-2P.

SUNDAYS: it's "Paul Parent's Garden Show", "Talking Birds", "Senior Living", Ron Morrison Real Estate, "Free Money" financials, "Gun Talk", "Shalom America" & "Cambodia Town".



When we're not talking, hear "Beatles and Before", "Oldies" music from the 50's & 60's over the air on 980 AM.
LISTEN ONLINE at www.980WCAP.com

RILEY: FROM PAGE 7

felt was intrusive or that any politics have come into play.

DUGGAN: Where is the system now, drop out rates, teen pregnancy rates, etc., compared to where it was when you came in?

RILEY: The dropout rate has decreased significantly and that should continue, teen pregnancy I don't think has anything to do with the schools. I don't think the schools can take any credit for the teen pregnancy problem. But the graduation rate is up about ten points.

DUGGAN: You do have daycare centers at the school, the teen pregnancy rate affects your budget...

RILEY: We have two, Phoenix and the High School.

DUGGAN: How Many?

RILEY: I'd have to guess, but I'd say we have about 25-30 kids in the day cares.

DUGGAN: That's not bad considering Lawrence's reputation.

RILEY: Well, obviously we'd prefer that number be zero. We have an abstinence education plan in place. It's a complicated subject. Some groups demand that we bring condoms in to the schools, which I have chosen not to do. What I said is that I believe that we are in a community and we need to listen to the community. I have listened to the pastors who believe deeply in the sanctity of life, and that I want to hear from the parents what they think is the best thing before I make a unilateral decision to bring condoms into the schools. Now, kids do have access to condoms in the local health center right down the street from the high school. I mean, children certainly know how to avail themselves to those things. But, as of today I have not had the feedback from the parents that tells me that this is what they want.

DUGGAN: Is the school system where you wanted to be when you started?

RILEY: I think we are slightly ahead of where we wanted to be. We didn't anticipate the significant growth in test scores that we had last year. I felt that given a lot of the changes and restructuring that was being done that we would not have that kind of growth. But, I think our relentless focus on teaching and learning, our focus on using data, our focus on getting kids to work hard to give up their vacations, to come in and get extra help with our best teachers, things like that are important. That is where we have seen a lot of gains with our kids.

LAWRENCE: FROM PAGE 10

any party I was planning. If this election were between only Devers and Twomey, I would most likely vote for Twomey as I am more closely aligned with his political philosophy. In my opinion both of these candidates are good people and neither is a perfect candidate.

However, this election isn't between the two aforementioned candidates; we have three. In November I am voting for Marcos Devers, not because I am voting for Mr. Devers, but because I'm voting against William Lantigua. It would be a disaster to give William Lantigua a say in any aspect of our government. I apologize to any newcomers who aren't familiar with Mr. Lantigua's escapades, just do an internet search and you can see for yourself. Lantigua hadn't raised much money before the primary. His pre-primary campaign finance report indicated few donations this year, most coming from Russian bar owners. It wouldn't surprise me if he receives a fair amount of money before the election, and just didn't want to show much on his pre-election report. Lantigua has been relatively quiet. He doesn't seem to be campaigning much and hasn't been blocking the streets with any bumper sticker events. Even most of the Dominican web sites seem relatively subdued in their accolades for Willy, but you can be sure he has something up his sleeve. We must not let the citizens of Lawrence be represented by this man. William Lantigua would not look after the best interests of Lawrence, especially while Mayor Rivera is in office. Willy would look out for himself. Devers and Twomey are fighting for each other's voters and, in my opinion, Devers has a better chance of winning in a three way race. Roger Twomey is not the spoiler in this election, William Lantigua has that distinction.

Coming next month: An analysis of the voter registration list for November's election.

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